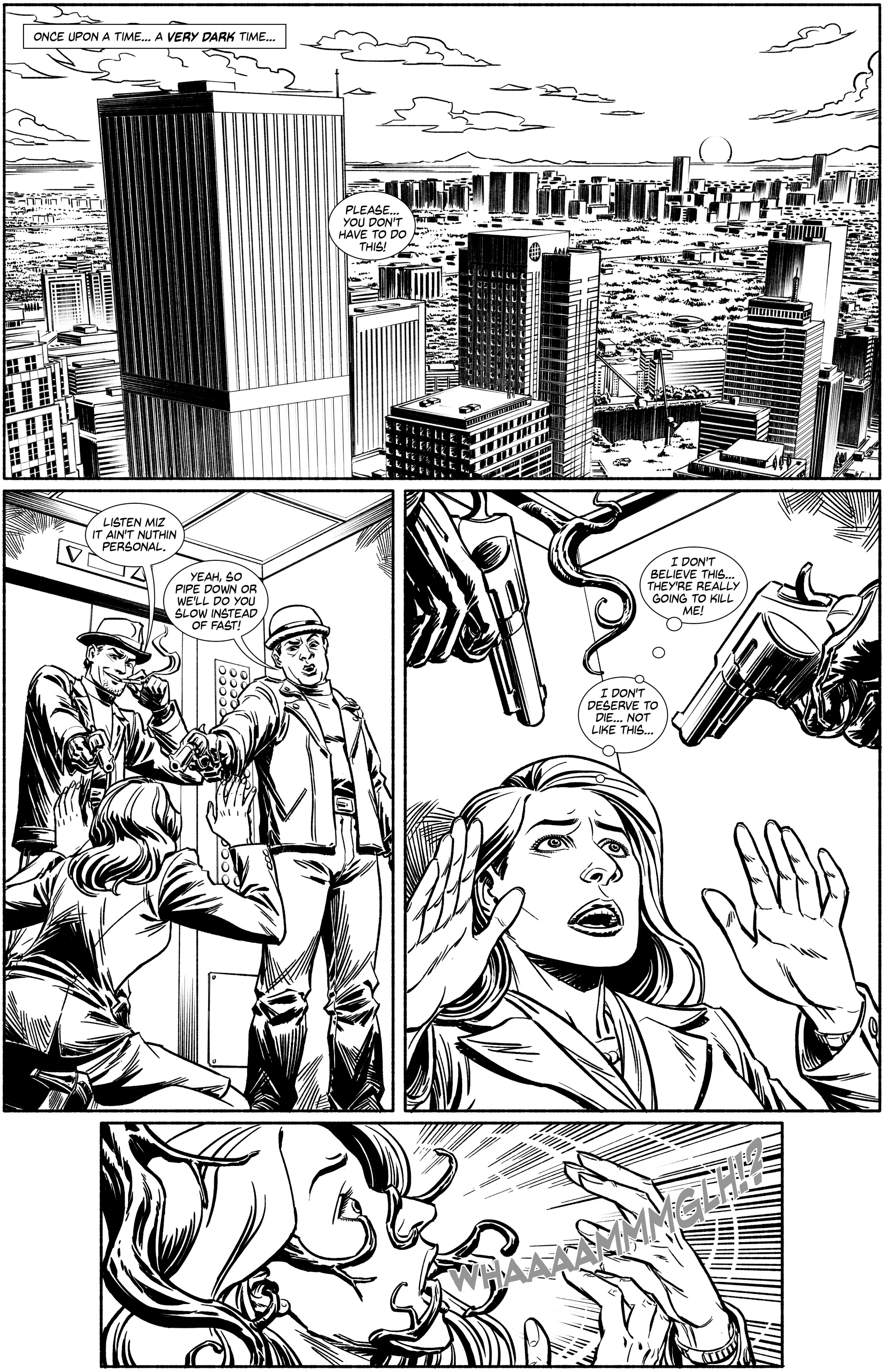
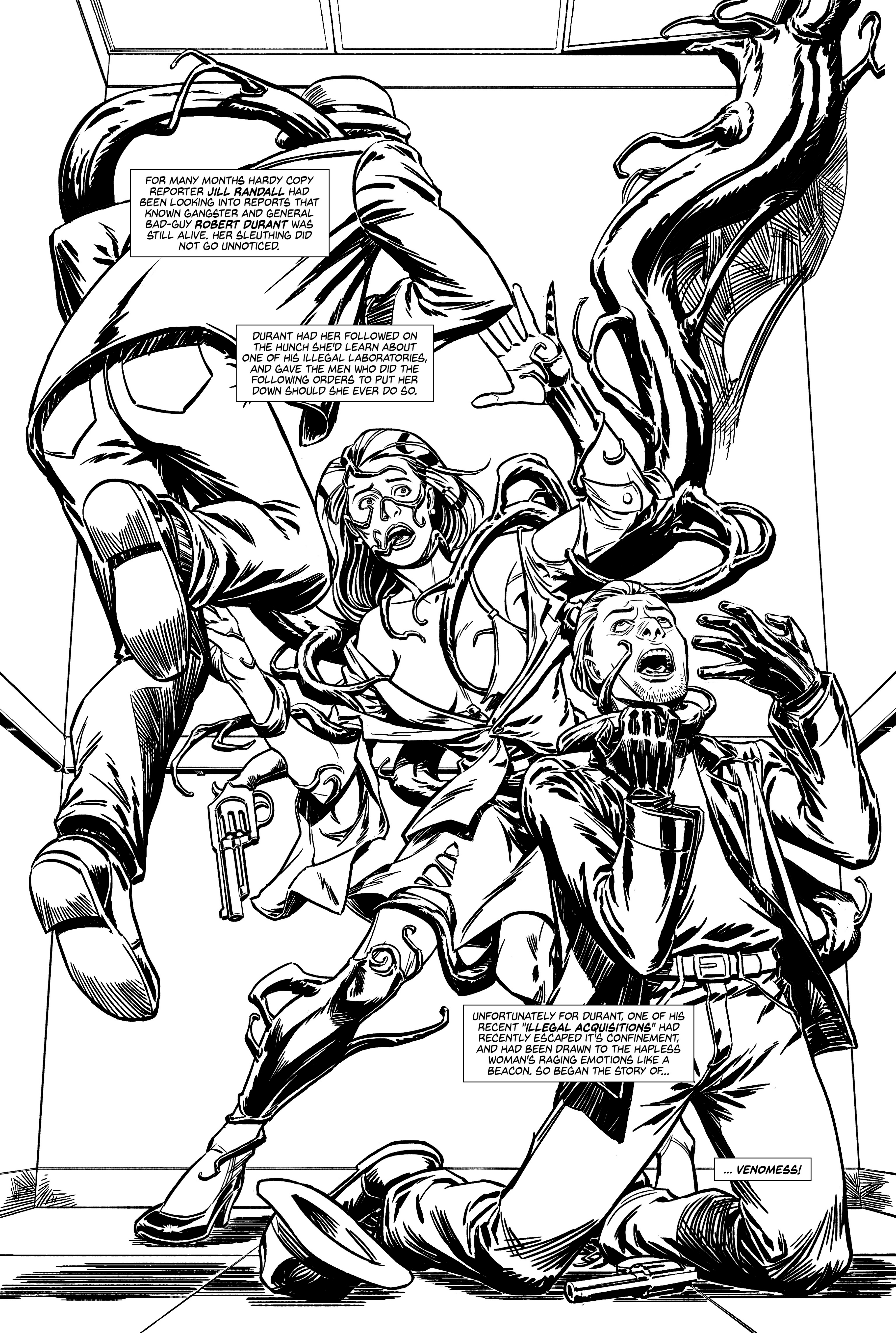
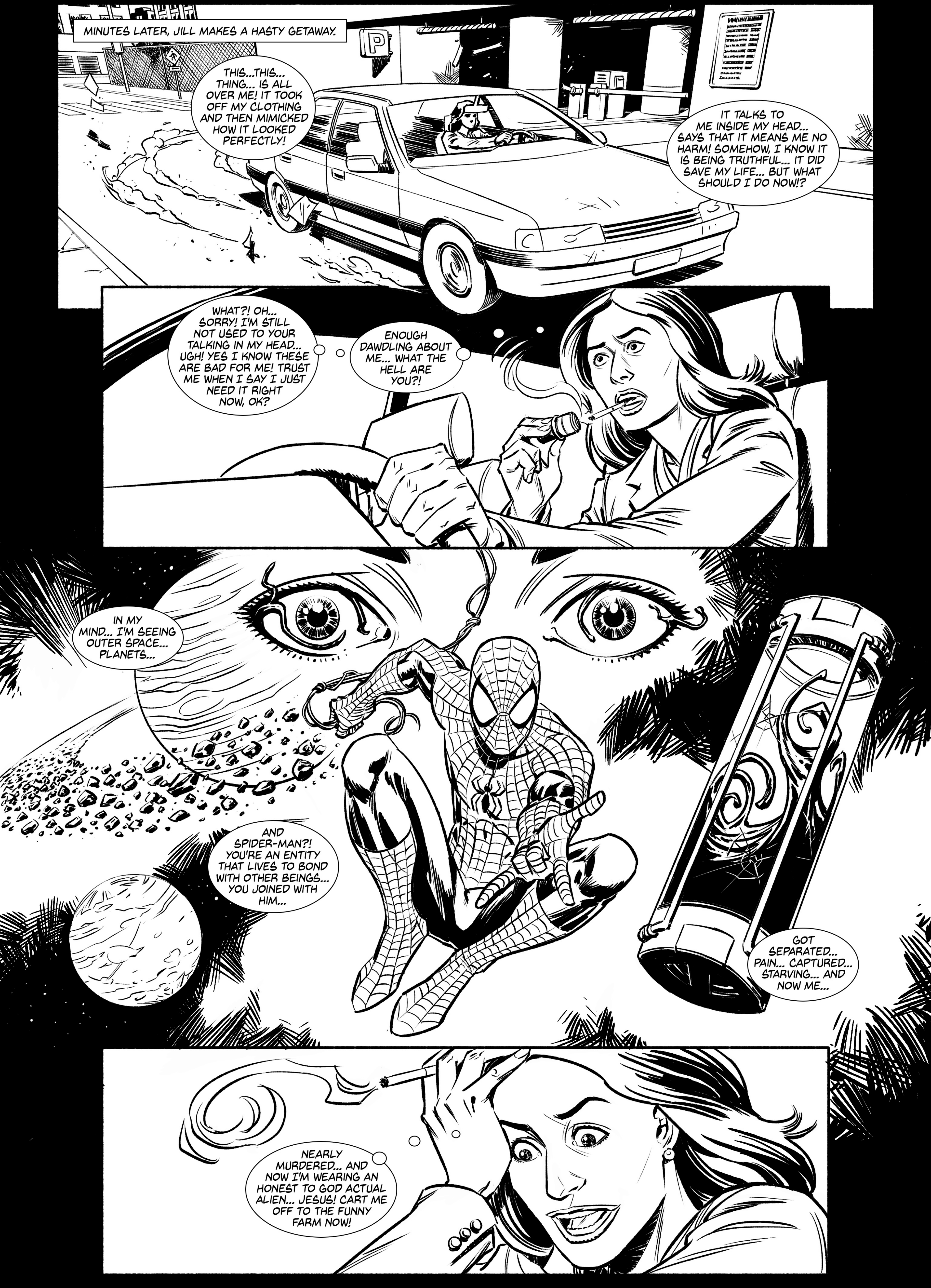
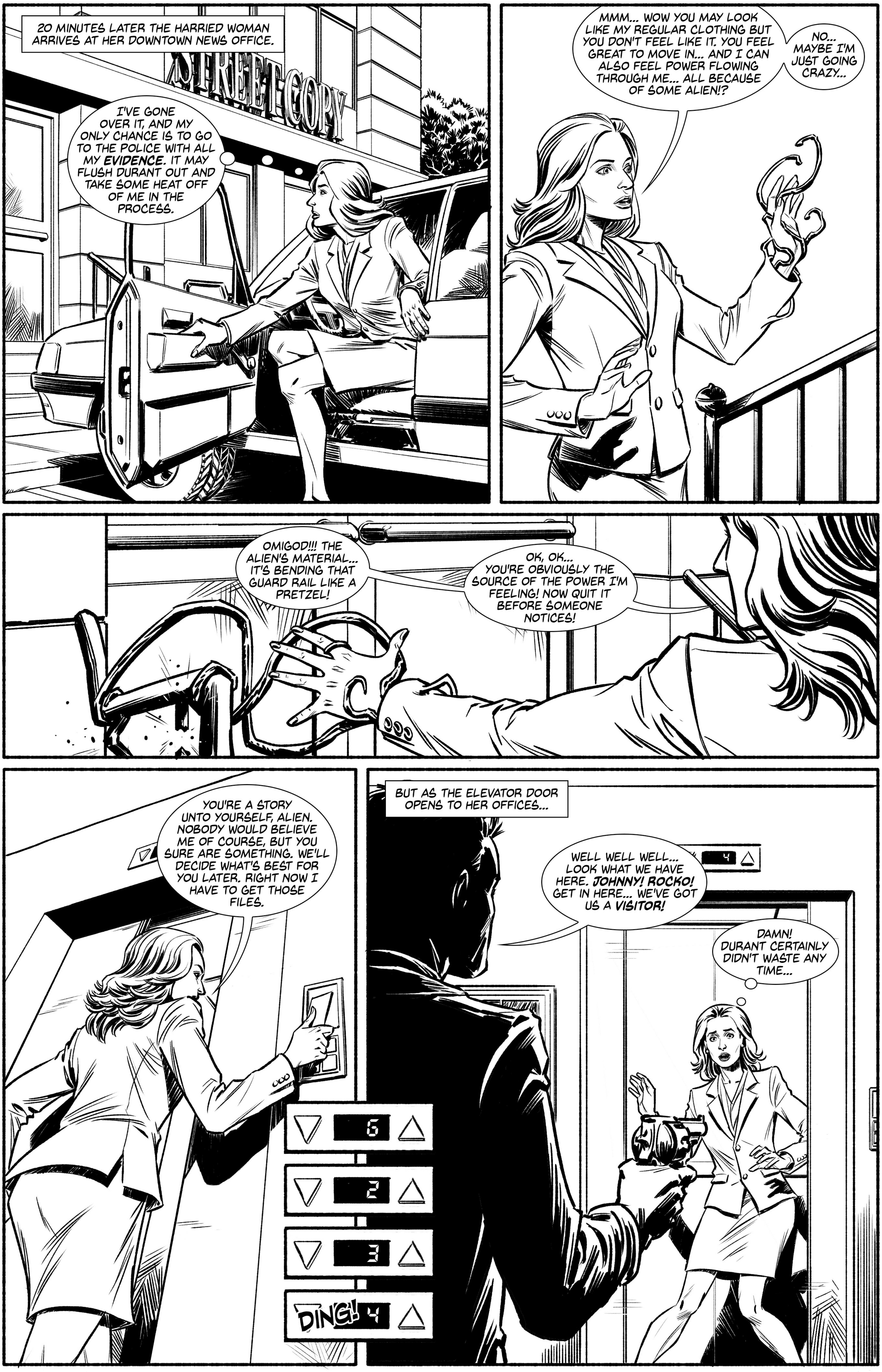
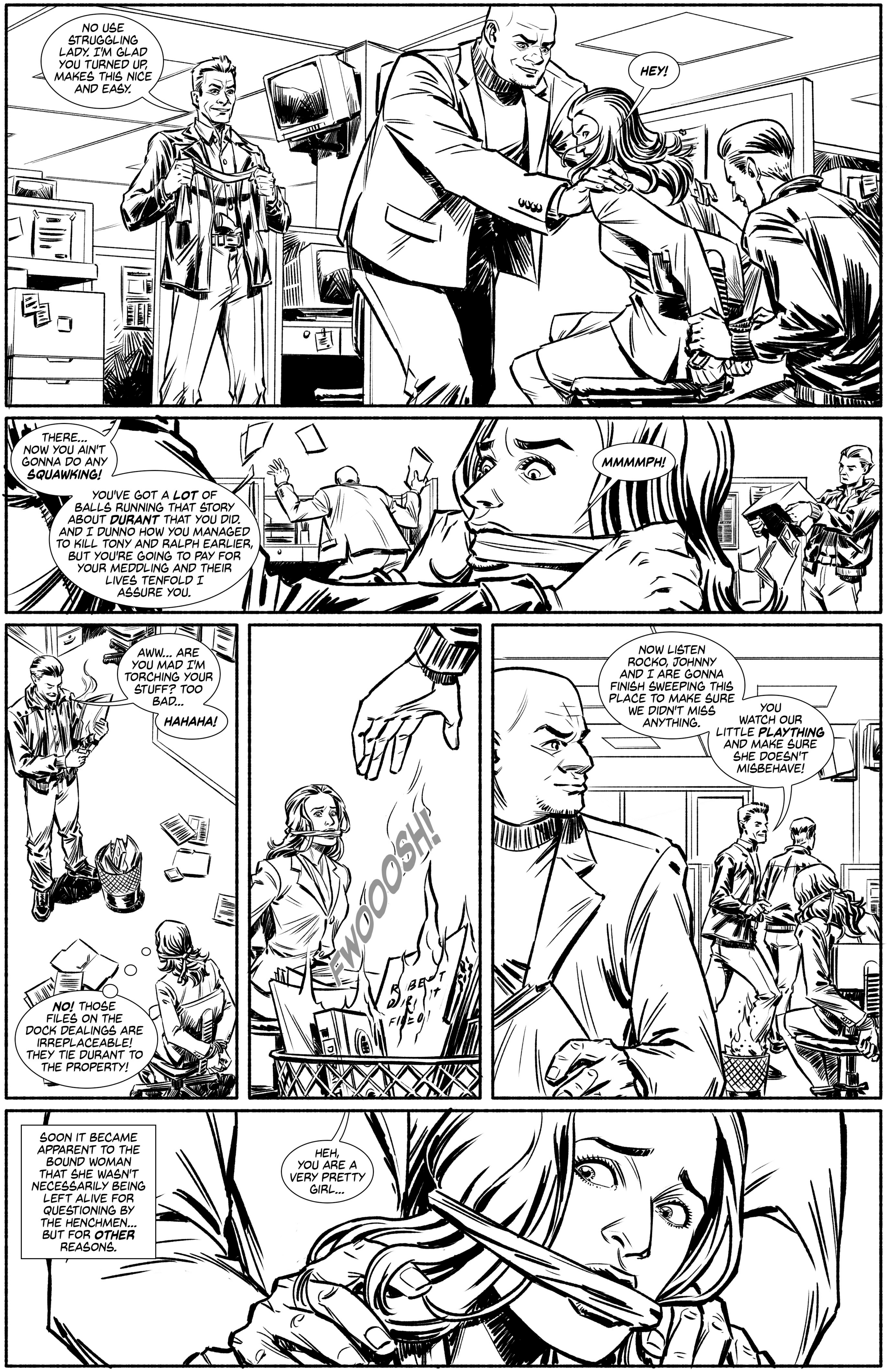
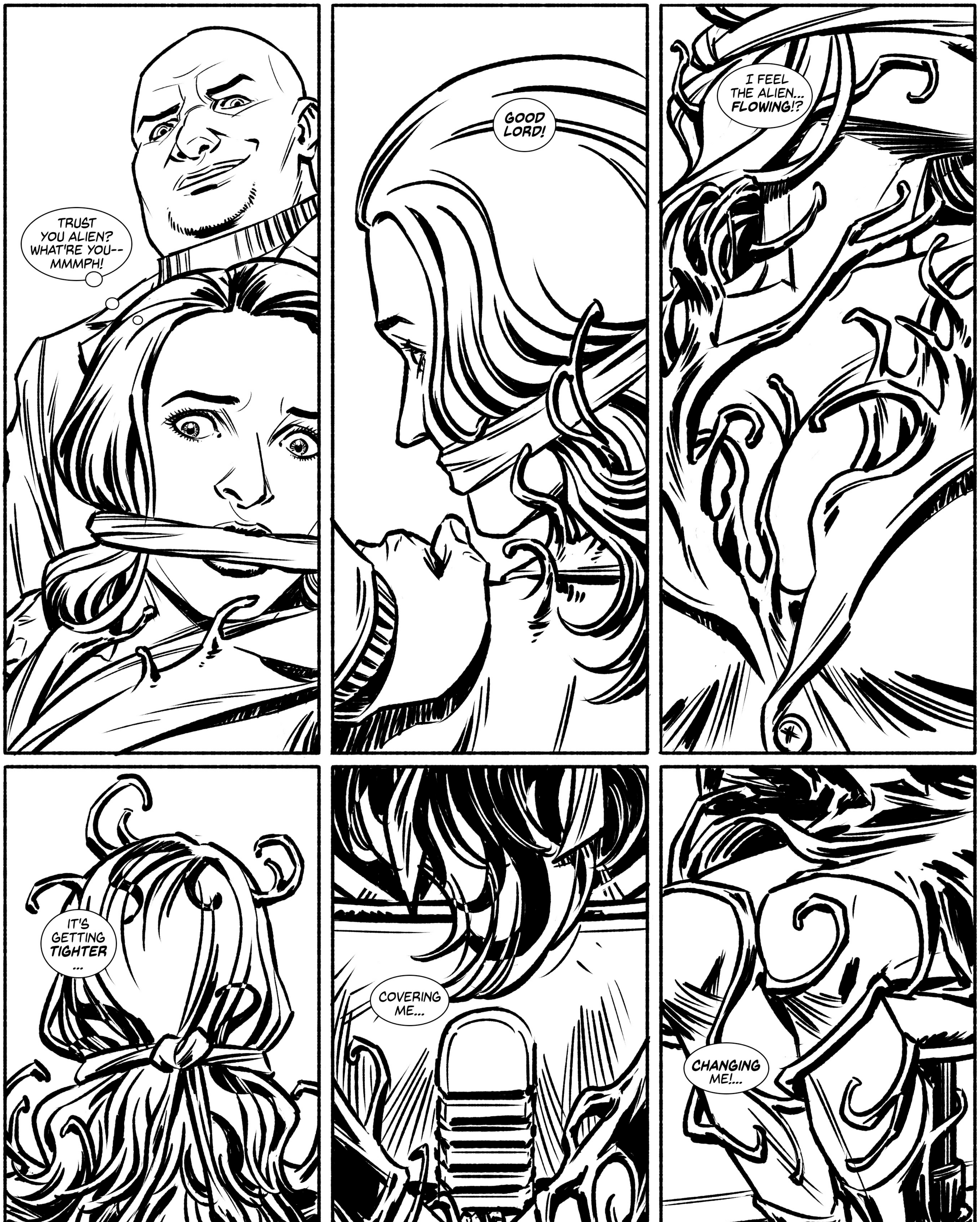

ONCE UPON A TIME... A VERY DARK TIME...
PLEASE... YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!
LISTEN MIZ IT AIN'T NUTHIN PERSONAL.
YEAH, SO PIPE DOWN OR WE'LL DO YOU SLOW INSTEAD OF FAST!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS... THEY'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL ME!
I DON'T DESERVE TO DIE... NOT LIKE THIS...
WHAAAAMMMGLH!?

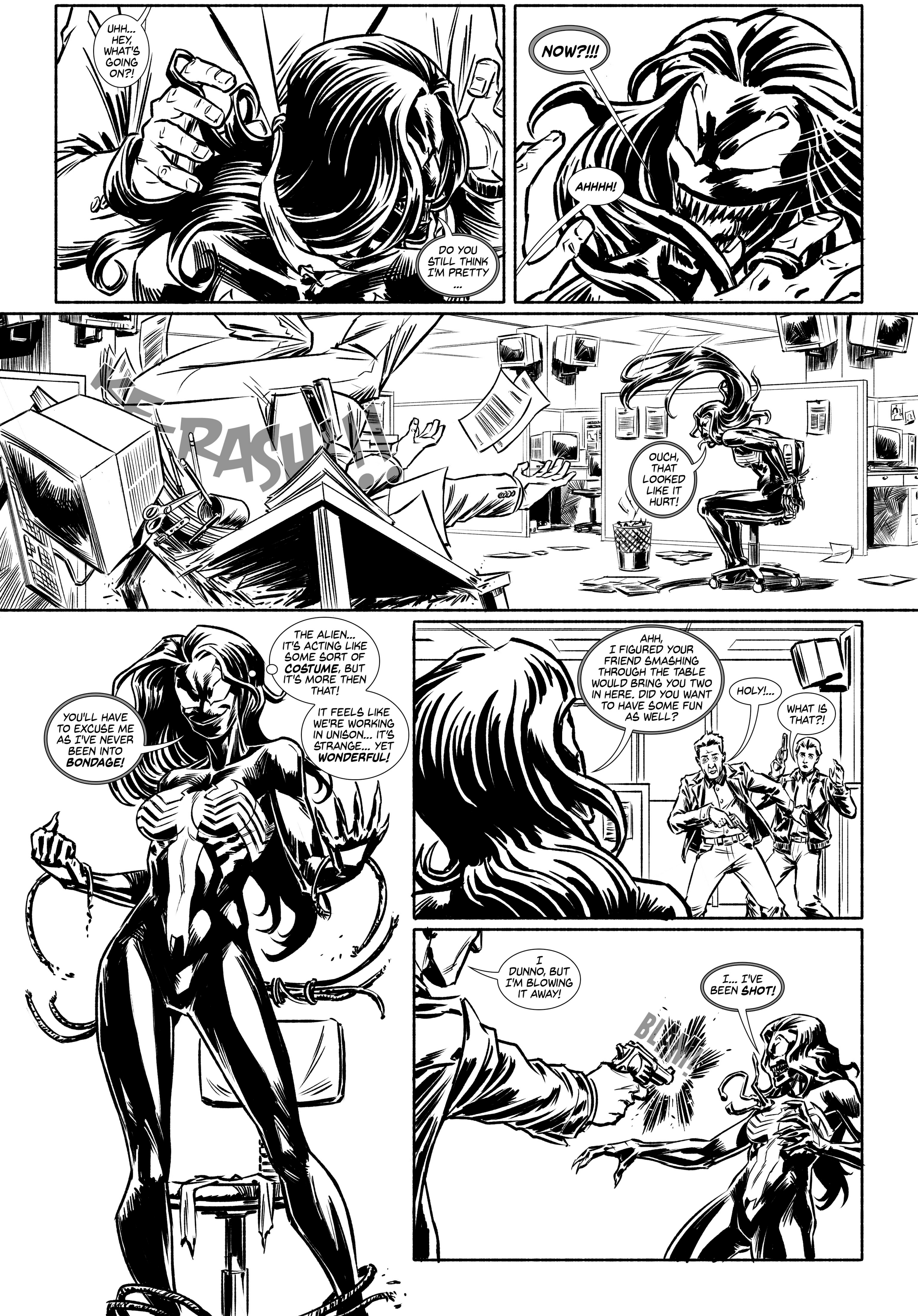

FOR MANY MONTHS HARDY COPY REPORTER **JILL RANDALL** HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO REPORTS THAT KNOWN GANGSTER AND GENERAL BAD-GUY **ROBERT DURANT** WAS STILL ALIVE. HER SLEUTHING DID NOT GO UNNOTICED.
DURANT HAD HER FOLLOWED ON THE HUNCH SHE'D LEARN ABOUT ONE OF HIS ILLEGAL LABORATORIES, AND GAVE THE MEN WHO DID THE FOLLOWING ORDERS TO PUT HER DOWN SHOULD SHE EVER DO SO.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR DURANT, ONE OF HIS RECENT ***"ILLEGAL ACQUISITIONS"*** HAD RECENTLY ESCAPED IT'S CONFINEMENT, AND HAD BEEN DRAWN TO THE HAPLESS WOMAN'S RAGING EMOTIONS LIKE A BEACON. SO BEGAN THE STORY OF...
... VENOMESS!

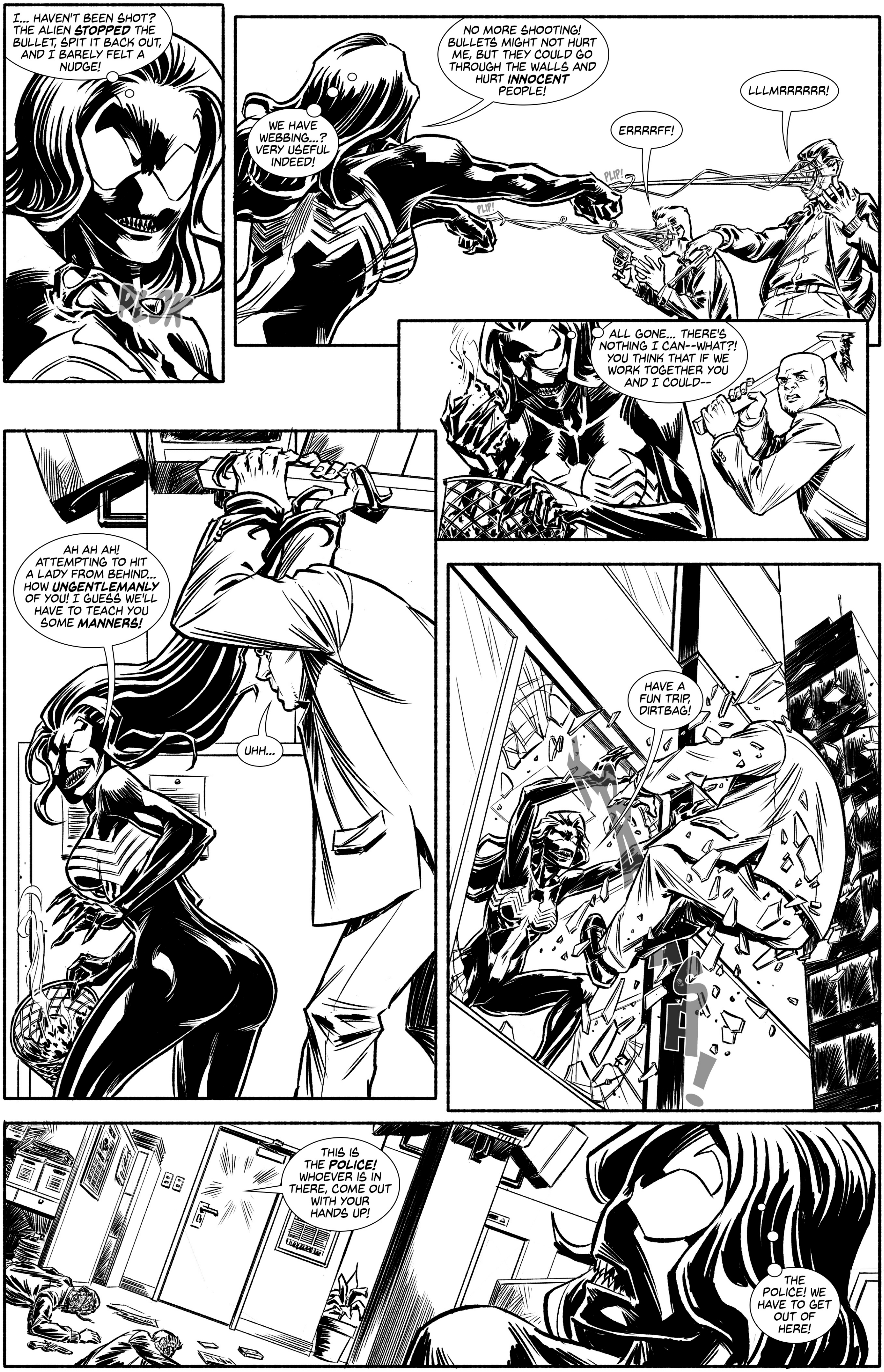

MINUTES LATER, JILL MAKES A HASTY GETAWAY.
THIS...THIS... THING... IS ALL OVER ME! IT TOOK OFF MY CLOTHING AND THEN MIMICKED HOW IT LOOKED PERFECTLY!
IT TALKS TO ME INSIDE MY HEAD... SAYS THAT IT MEANS ME NO HARM! SOMEHOW, I KNOW IT IS BEING TRUTHFUL... IT DID SAVE MY LIFE... BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW!?
P
WHAT?! OH... SORRY! I'M STILL NOT USED TO YOUR TALKING IN MY HEAD... UGH! YES I KNOW THESE ARE BAD FOR ME! TRUST ME WHEN I SAY I JUST NEED IT RIGHT NOW, OK?
ENOUGH DAWDLING ABOUT ME... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
IN MY MIND... I'M SEEING OUTER SPACE... PLANETS...
AND SPIDER-MAN?! YOU'RE AN ENTITY THAT LIVES TO BOND WITH OTHER BEINGS... YOU JOINED WITH HIM...
GOT SEPARATED... PAIN... CAPTURED... STARVING... AND NOW ME...
NEARLY MURDERED... AND NOW I'M WEARING AN HONEST TO GOD ACTUAL ALIEN... JESUS! CART ME OFF TO THE FUNNY FARM NOW!

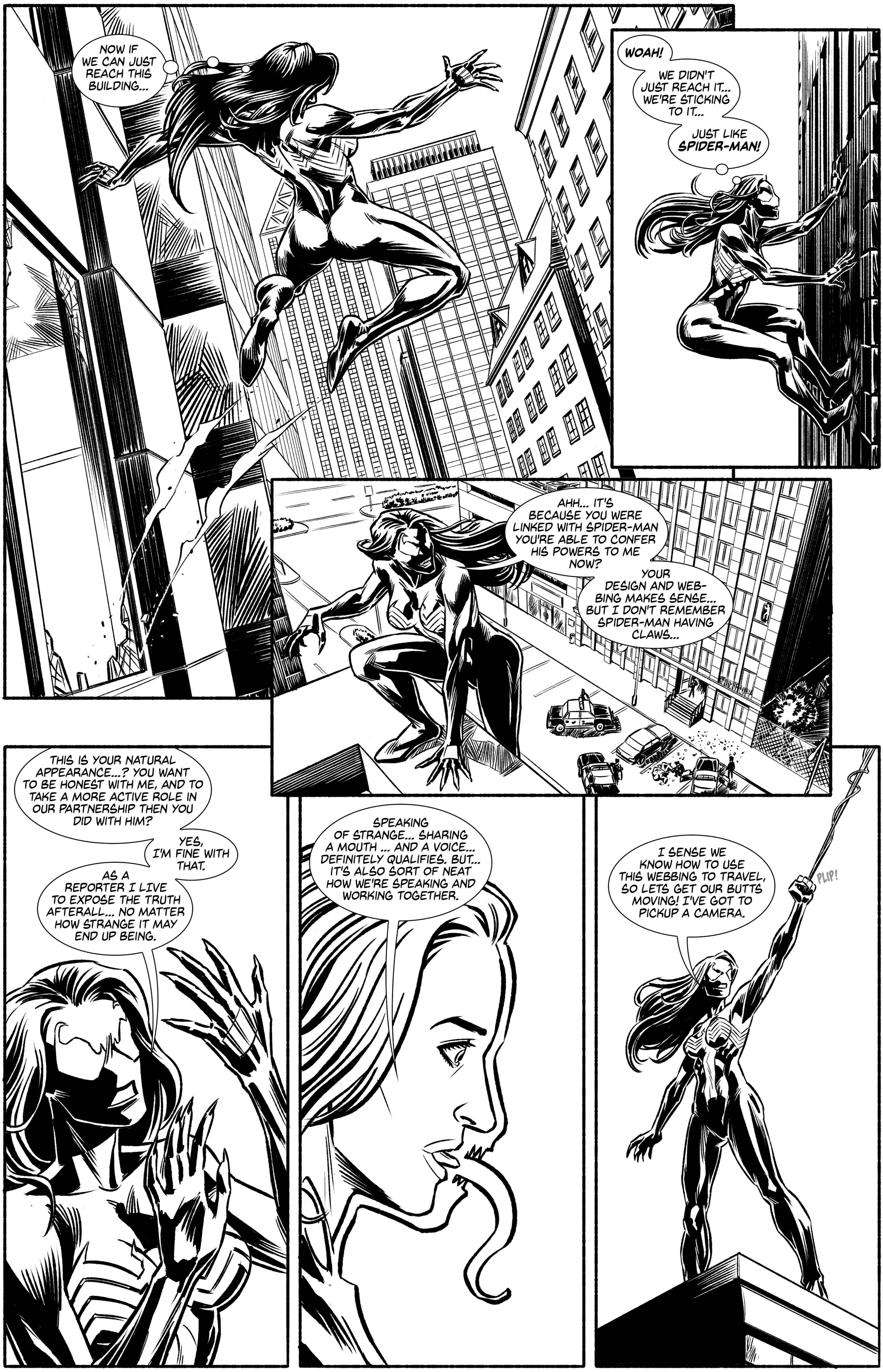

20 MINUTES LATER THE HARRIED WOMAN ARRIVES AT HER DOWNTOWN NEWS OFFICE.
STREET COPY
I'VE GONE OVER IT, AND MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO GO TO THE POLICE WITH ALL MY **EVIDENCE**. IT MAY FLUSH DURANT OUT AND TAKE SOME HEAT OFF OF ME IN THE PROCESS.
MMM... WOW YOU MAY LOOK LIKE MY REGULAR CLOTHING BUT YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT. YOU FEEL GREAT TO MOVE IN... AND I CAN ALSO FEEL POWER FLOWING THROUGH ME... ALL BECAUSE OF SOME ALIEN!?
NO... MAYBE I'M JUST GOING CRAZY...
OMIGOD!!! THE ALIEN'S MATERIAL... IT'S BENDING THAT GUARD RAIL LIKE A PRETZEL!
OK, OK... YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY THE SOURCE OF THE POWER I'M FEELING! NOW QUIT IT BEFORE SOMEONE NOTICES!
YOU'RE A STORY UNTO YOURSELF, ALIEN. NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME OF COURSE, BUT YOU SURE ARE SOMETHING. WE'LL DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU LATER. RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO GET THOSE FILES.
6
2
3
DING! 4
BUT AS THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS TO HER OFFICES...
4
WELL WELL WELL... LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE. ***JOHNNY! ROCKO!*** GET IN HERE... WE'VE GOT US A ***VISITOR!***
DAMN! DURANT CERTAINLY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME...

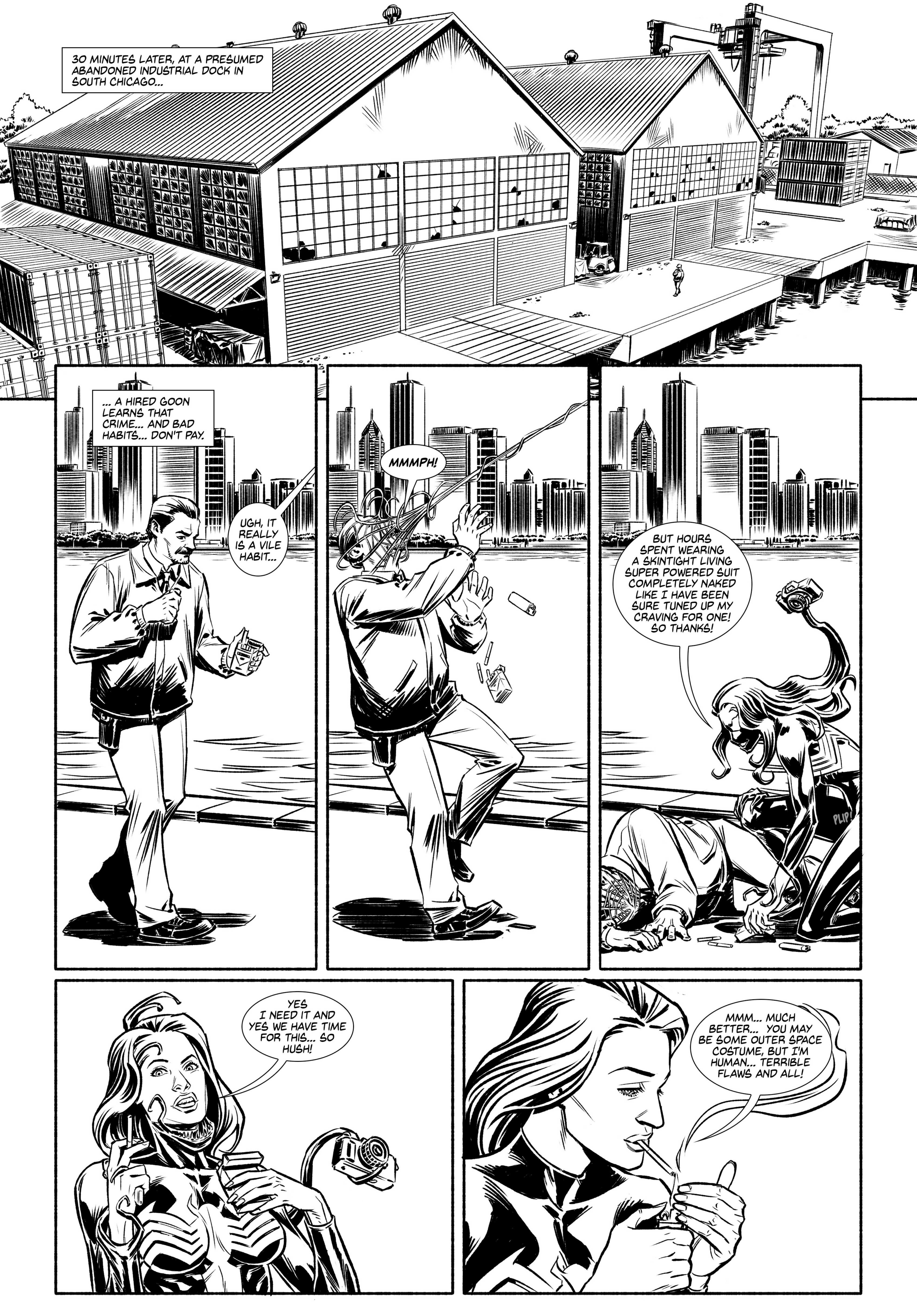

NO USE STRUGGLING LADY. I'M GLAD YOU TURNED UP, MAKES THIS NICE AND EASY.
HEY!
THERE... NOW YOU AIN'T GONNA DO ANY **SQUAWKING!**
YOU'VE GOT A **LOT** OF BALLS RUNNING THAT STORY ABOUT **DURANT** THAT YOU DID. AND I DUNNO HOW YOU MANAGED TO KILL TONY AND RALPH EARLIER, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR YOUR MEDDLING AND THEIR LIVES TENFOLD I ASSURE YOU.
MMMMPH!
AWW... ARE YOU MAD I'M TORCHING YOUR STUFF? TOO BAD...
HAHAHA!
NO! THOSE FILES ON THE DOCK DEALINGS ARE IRREPLACEABLE! THEY TIE DURANT TO THE PROPERTY!
FWOOOSH!
NOW LISTEN ROCKO, JOHNNY AND I ARE GONNA FINISH SWEEPING THIS PLACE TO MAKE SURE WE DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING.
YOU WATCH OUR LITTLE **PLAYTHING** AND MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T MISBEHAVE!
SOON IT BECAME APPARENT TO THE BOUND WOMAN THAT SHE WASN'T NECESSARILY BEING LEFT ALIVE FOR QUESTIONING BY THE HENCHMEN... BUT FOR **OTHER** REASONS.
HEH, YOU ARE A VERY PRETTY GIRL...

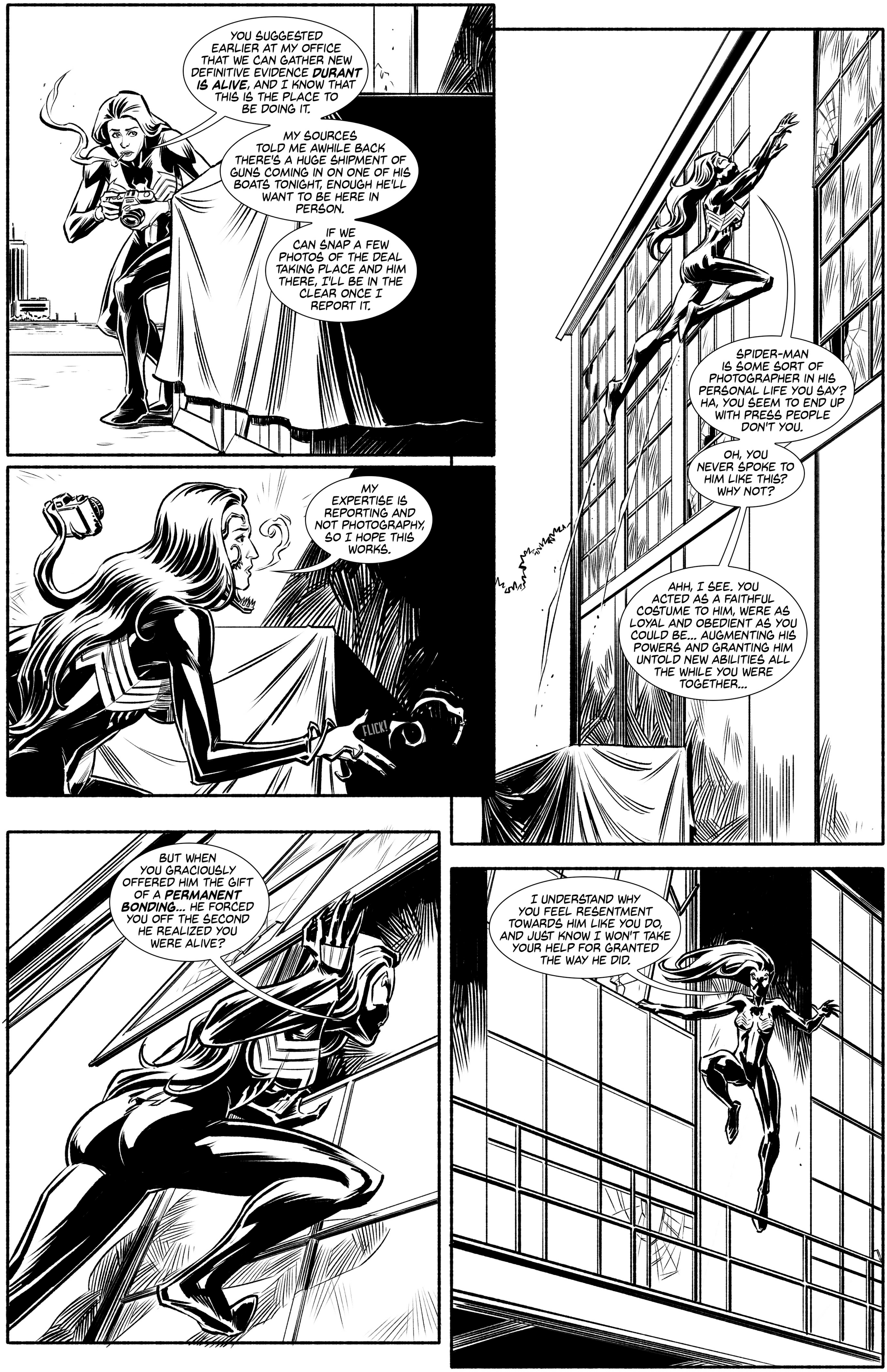

TRUST YOU ALIEN? WHAT'RE YOU-- MMMPH!
GOOD LORD!
I FEEL THE ALIEN... **FLOWING!?**
IT'S GETTING **TIGHTER** ...
COVERING ME...
CHANGING ME!...

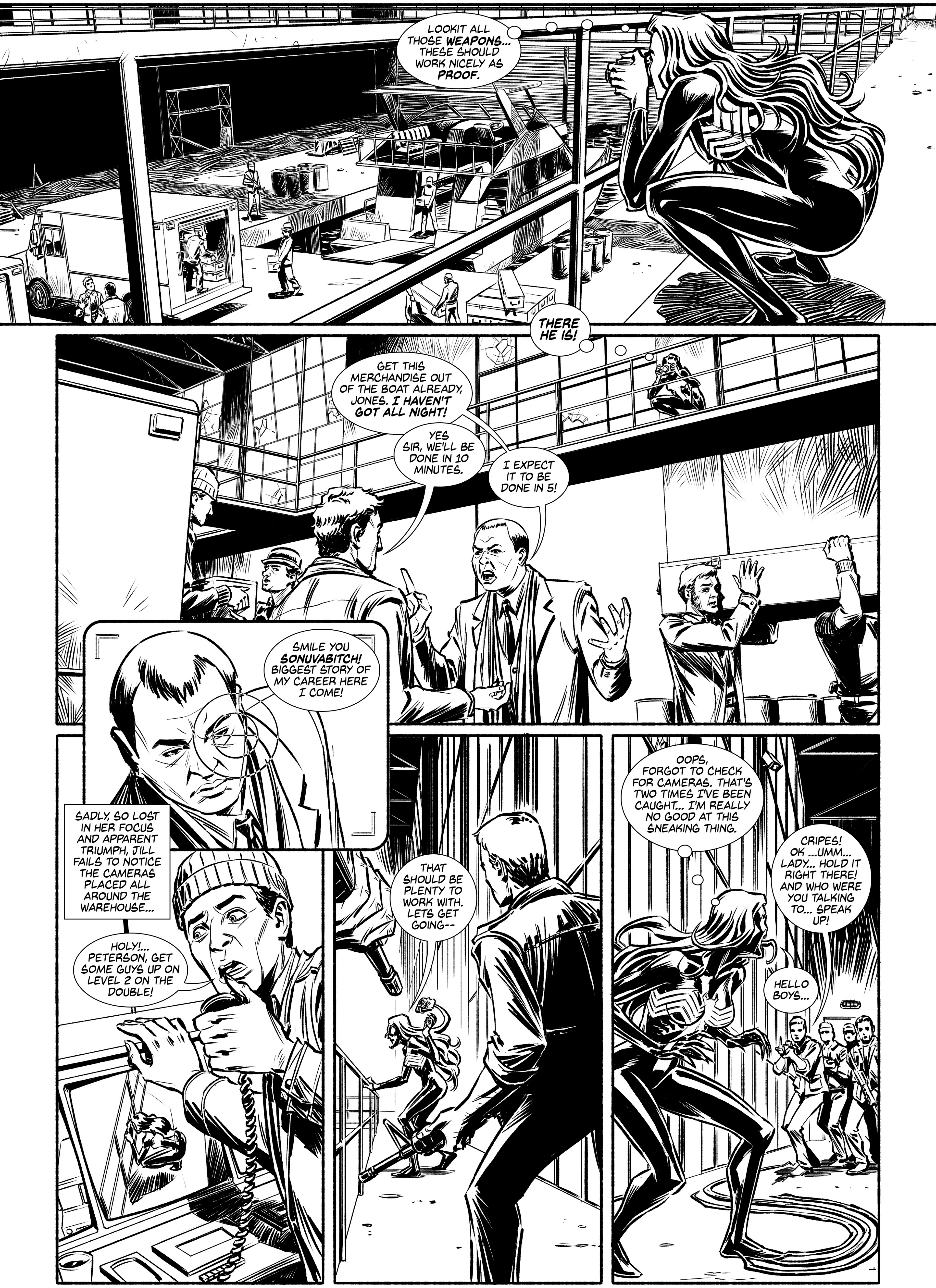

UHH... HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
DO YOU STILL THINK I'M PRETTY ...
NOW?!!!
AHHHH!
KE-RASH!!!
OUCH, THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HURT!
THE ALIEN... IT'S ACTING LIKE SOME SORT OF **COSTUME**, BUT IT'S MORE THEN THAT!
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE WORKING IN UNISON... IT'S STRANGE... YET **WONDERFUL!**
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME AS I'VE NEVER BEEN INTO **BONDAGE!**
AHH, I FIGURED YOUR FRIEND SMASHING THROUGH THE TABLE WOULD BRING YOU TWO IN HERE. DID YOU WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN AS WELL?
HOLY!...
WHAT IS THAT?!
I DUNNO, BUT I'M BLOWING IT AWAY!
BLAM!!
I... I'VE BEEN **SHOT!**

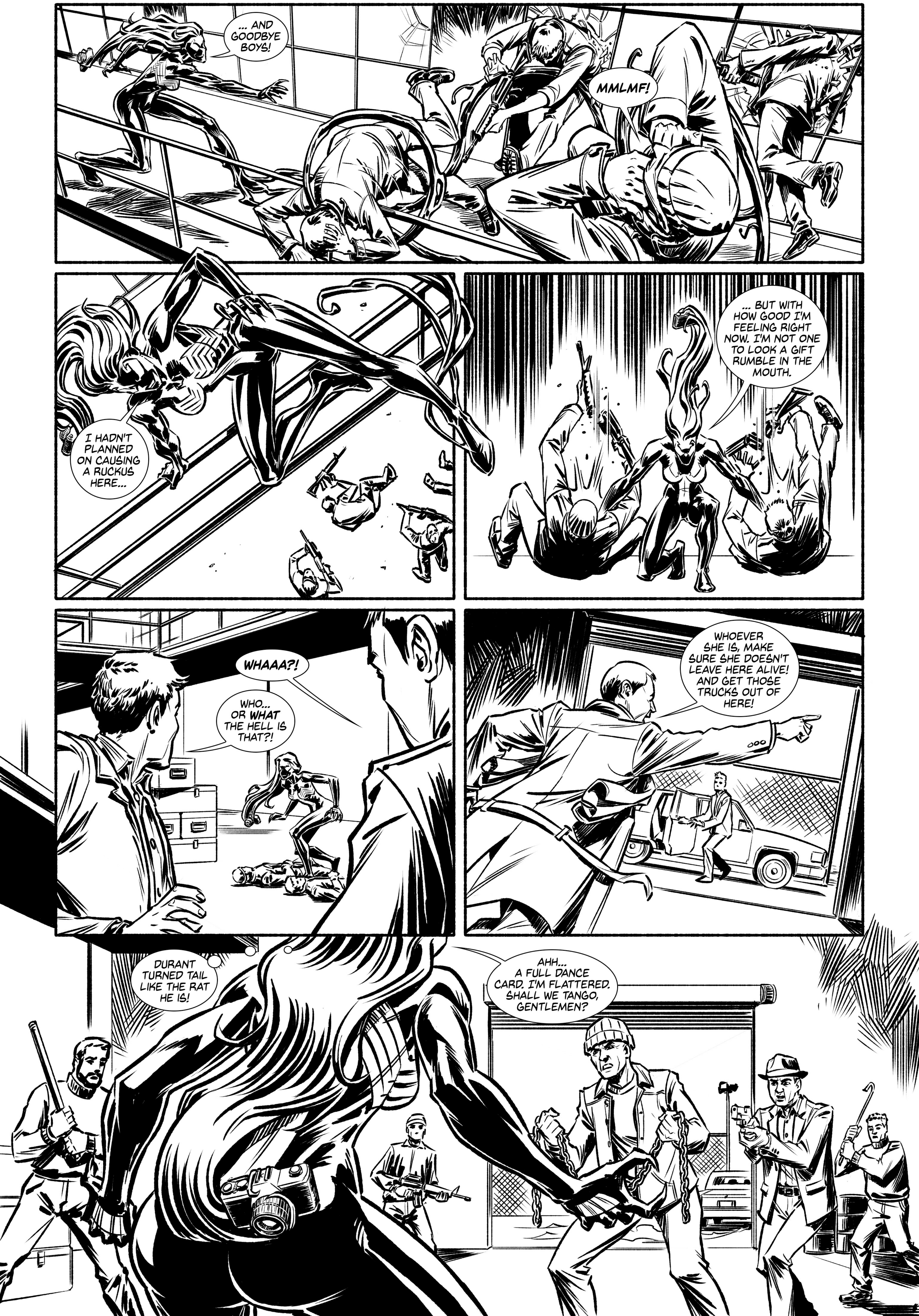

I... HAVEN'T BEEN SHOT? THE ALIEN STOPPED THE BULLET, SPIT IT BACK OUT, AND I BARELY FELT A NUDGE!
PLOK
NO MORE SHOOTING! BULLETS MIGHT NOT HURT ME, BUT THEY COULD GO THROUGH THE WALLS AND HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE!
WE HAVE WEBBING...? VERY USEFUL INDEED!
LLLMRRRRRR!
ERRRRFF!
PLIP!
PLIP!
ALL GONE... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN--WHAT?! YOU THINK THAT IF WE WORK TOGETHER YOU AND I COULD--
AH AH AH! ATTEMPTING TO HIT A LADY FROM BEHIND... HOW UNGENTLEMANLY OF YOU! I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS!
UHH...
HAVE A FUN TRIP, DIRTBAG!
KRASH!
THIS IS THE POLICE! WHOEVER IS IN THERE, COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
THE POLICE! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

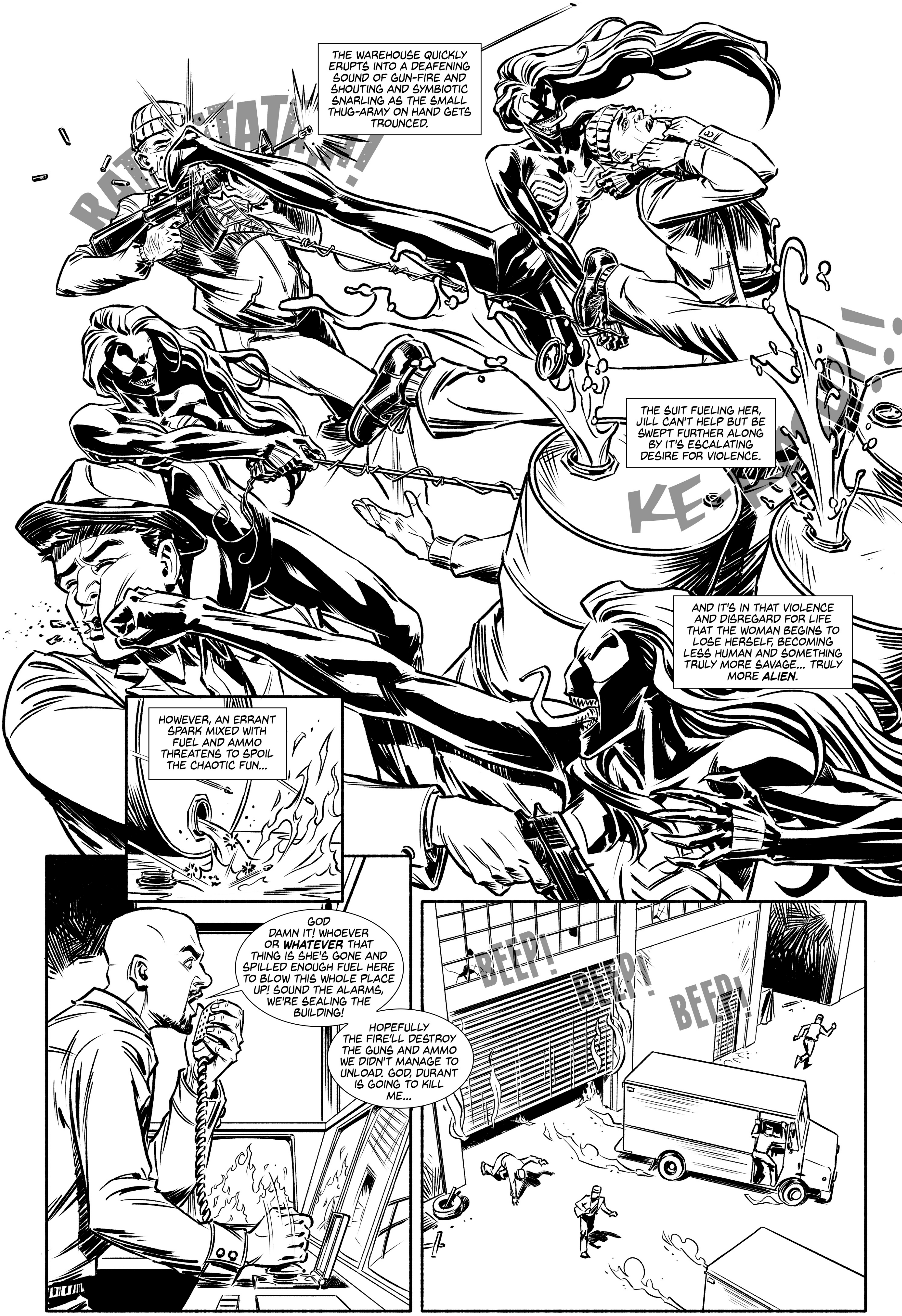

NOW IF WE CAN JUST REACH THIS BUILDING...
WOAH!
WE DIDN'T JUST REACH IT... WE'RE STICKING TO IT...
JUST LIKE SPIDER-MAN!
AHH... IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE LINKED WITH SPIDER-MAN YOU'RE ABLE TO CONFER HIS POWERS TO ME NOW?
YOUR DESIGN AND WEBBING MAKES SENSE... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER SPIDER-MAN HAVING CLAWS...
THIS IS YOUR NATURAL APPEARANCE...? YOU WANT TO BE HONEST WITH ME, AND TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN OUR PARTNERSHIP THEN YOU DID WITH HIM?
YES, I'M FINE WITH THAT.
AS A REPORTER I LIVE TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH AFTERALL... NO MATTER HOW STRANGE IT MAY END UP BEING.
SPEAKING OF STRANGE... SHARING A MOUTH ... AND A VOICE... DEFINITELY QUALIFIES. BUT... IT'S ALSO SORT OF NEAT HOW WE'RE SPEAKING AND WORKING TOGETHER.
I SENSE WE KNOW HOW TO USE THIS WEBBING TO TRAVEL, SO LETS GET OUR BUTTS MOVING! I'VE GOT TO PICKUP A CAMERA.
PLIP!

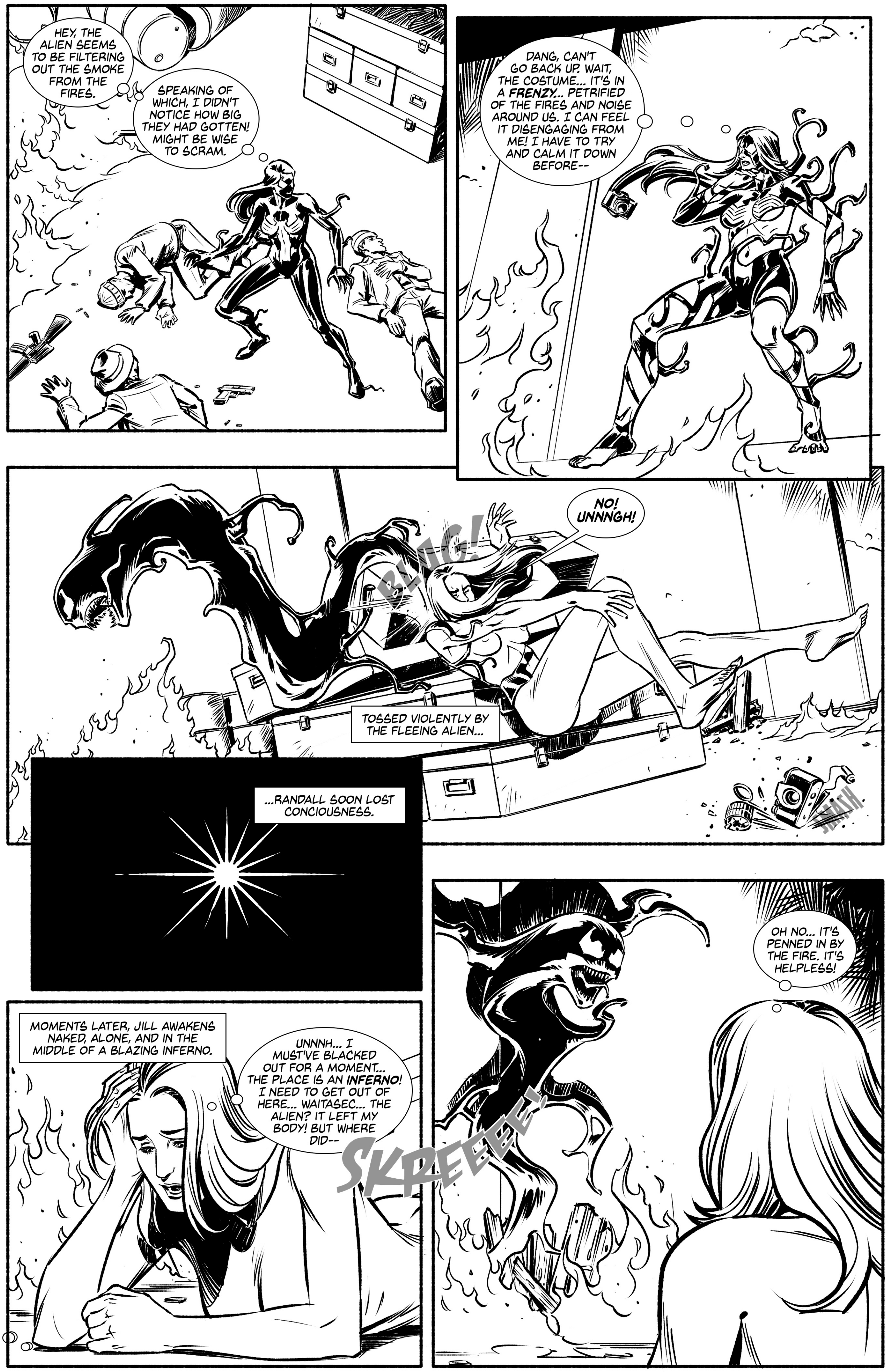

30 MINUTES LATER, AT A PRESUMED ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL DOCK IN SOUTH CHICAGO...
... A HIRED GOON LEARNS THAT CRIME... AND BAD HABITS... DON'T PAY.
UGH, IT REALLY IS A VILE HABIT...
MMMPH!
BUT HOURS SPENT WEARING A SKINTIGHT LIVING SUPER POWERED SUIT COMPLETELY NAKED LIKE I HAVE BEEN SURE TUNED UP MY CRAVING FOR ONE! SO THANKS!
PLIP!
YES I NEED IT AND YES WE HAVE TIME FOR THIS... SO HUSH!
MMM... MUCH BETTER... YOU MAY BE SOME OUTER SPACE COSTUME, BUT I'M HUMAN... TERRIBLE FLAWS AND ALL!

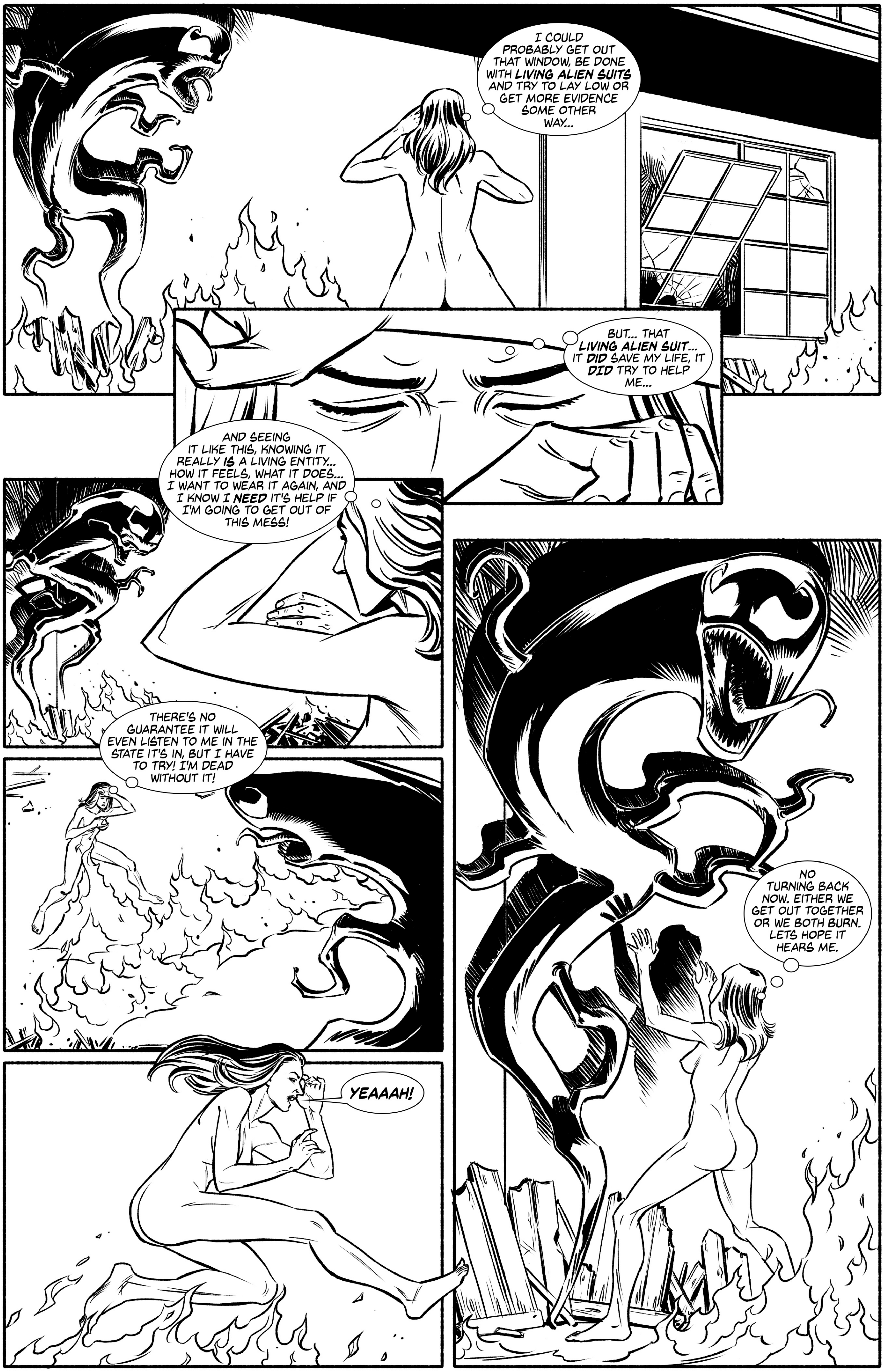

YOU SUGGESTED EARLIER AT MY OFFICE THAT WE CAN GATHER NEW DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE **DURANT IS ALIVE**, AND I KNOW THAT THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE DOING IT.
MY SOURCES TOLD ME AWHILE BACK THERE'S A HUGE SHIPMENT OF GUNS COMING IN ON ONE OF HIS BOATS TONIGHT, ENOUGH HE'LL WANT TO BE HERE IN PERSON.
IF WE CAN SNAP A FEW PHOTOS OF THE DEAL TAKING PLACE AND HIM THERE, I'LL BE IN THE CLEAR ONCE I REPORT IT.
MY EXPERTISE IS REPORTING AND NOT PHOTOGRAPHY, SO I HOPE THIS WORKS.
FLICK!
SPIDER-MAN IS SOME SORT OF PHOTOGRAPHER IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE YOU SAY? HA, YOU SEEM TO END UP WITH PRESS PEOPLE DON'T YOU.
OH, YOU NEVER SPOKE TO HIM LIKE THIS? WHY NOT?
AHH, I SEE. YOU ACTED AS A FAITHFUL COSTUME TO HIM, WERE AS LOYAL AND OBEDIENT AS YOU COULD BE... AUGMENTING HIS POWERS AND GRANTING HIM UNTOLD NEW ABILITIES ALL THE WHILE YOU WERE TOGETHER...
BUT WHEN YOU GRACIOUSLY OFFERED HIM THE GIFT OF A **PERMANENT BONDING**... HE FORCED YOU OFF THE SECOND HE REALIZED YOU WERE ALIVE?
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL RESENTMENT TOWARDS HIM LIKE YOU DO, AND JUST KNOW I WON'T TAKE YOUR HELP FOR GRANTED THE WAY HE DID.

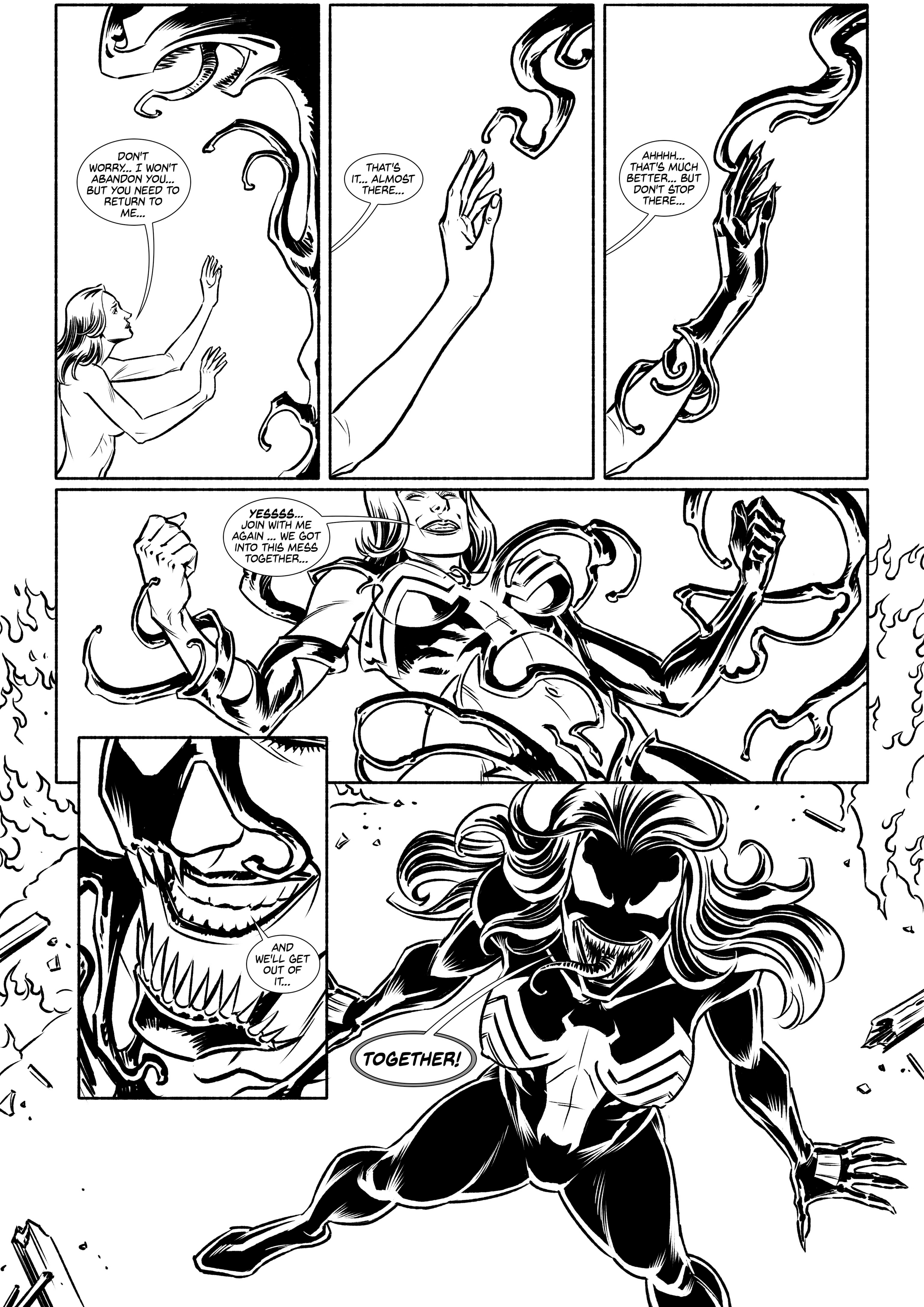

LOOKIT ALL THOSE **WEAPONS**... THESE SHOULD WORK NICELY AS **PROOF**.
THERE HE IS!
GET THIS MERCHANDISE OUT OF THE BOAT ALREADY, JONES. **I HAVEN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!**
YES SIR, WE'LL BE DONE IN 10 MINUTES.
I EXPECT IT TO BE DONE IN 5!
SMILE YOU **SONUVABITCH!** BIGGEST STORY OF MY CAREER HERE I COME!
SADLY, SO LOST IN HER FOCUS AND APPARENT TRIUMPH, JILL FAILS TO NOTICE THE CAMERAS PLACED ALL AROUND THE WAREHOUSE...
HOLY!... PETERSON, GET SOME GUYS UP ON LEVEL 2 ON THE DOUBLE!
THAT SHOULD BE PLENTY TO WORK WITH. LETS GET GOING--
OOPS, FORGOT TO CHECK FOR CAMERAS. THAT'S TWO TIMES I'VE BEEN CAUGHT... I'M REALLY NO GOOD AT THIS SNEAKING THING.
CRIPES! OK ...UMM... LADY... HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! AND WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO... SPEAK UP!
HELLO BOYS...

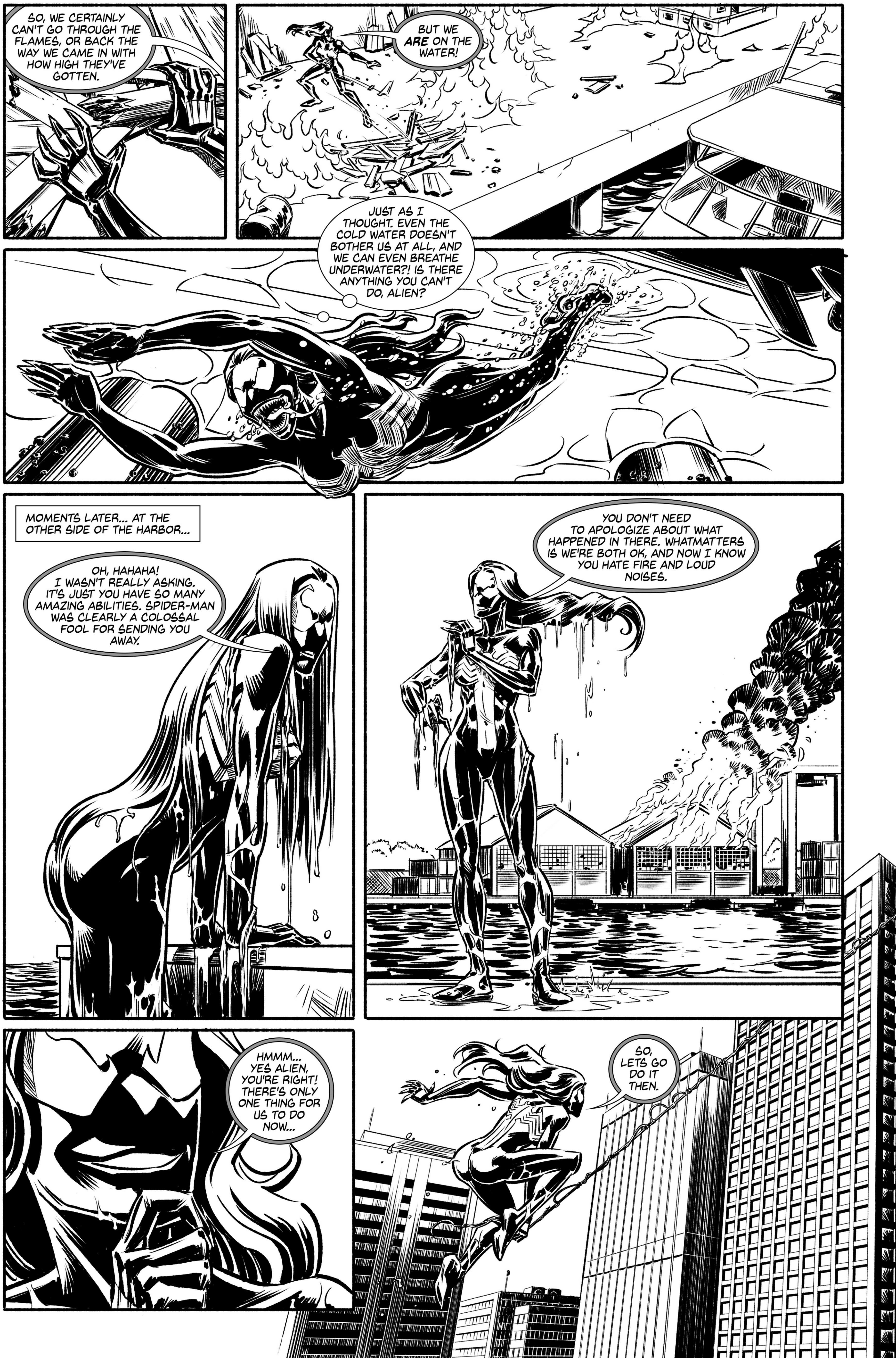

... AND GOODBYE BOYS!
MMLMF!
I HADN'T PLANNED ON CAUSING A RUCKUS HERE...
... BUT WITH HOW GOOD I'M FEELING RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT ONE TO LOOK A GIFT RUMBLE IN THE MOUTH.
WHAAA?!
WHO... OR *WHAT* THE HELL IS THAT?!
WHOEVER SHE IS, MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE! AND GET THOSE TRUCKS OUT OF HERE!
DURANT TURNED TAIL LIKE THE RAT HE IS!
AHH... A FULL DANCE CARD. I'M FLATTERED. SHALL WE TANGO, GENTLEMEN?

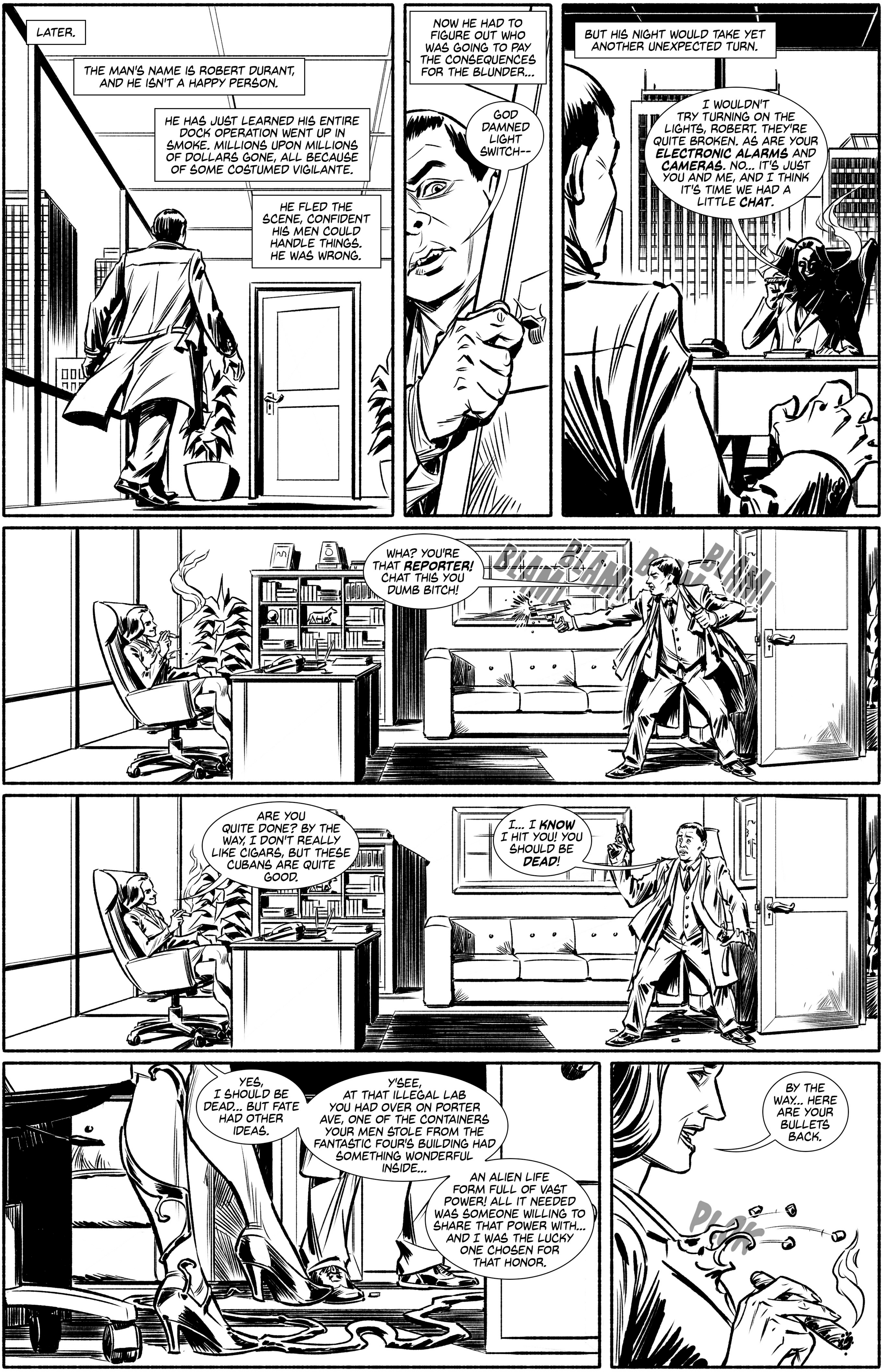

THE WAREHOUSE QUICKLY ERUPTS INTO A DEAFENING SOUND OF GUN-FIRE AND SHOUTING AND SYMBIOTIC SNARLING AS THE SMALL THUG-ARMY ON HAND GETS TROUNCED.
RATATATATA!
THE SUIT FUELING HER, JILL CAN'T HELP BUT BE SWEPT FURTHER ALONG BY IT'S ESCALATING DESIRE FOR VIOLENCE.
KE-
AND IT'S IN THAT VIOLENCE AND DISREGARD FOR LIFE THAT THE WOMAN BEGINS TO LOSE HERSELF, BECOMING LESS HUMAN AND SOMETHING TRULY MORE SAVAGE... TRULY MORE ***ALIEN.***
HOWEVER, AN ERRANT SPARK MIXED WITH FUEL AND AMMO THREATENS TO SPOIL THE CHAOTIC FUN...
GOD DAMN IT! WHOEVER OR ***WHATEVER*** THAT THING IS SHE'S GONE AND SPILLED ENOUGH FUEL HERE TO BLOW THIS WHOLE PLACE UP! SOUND THE ALARMS, WE'RE SEALING THE BUILDING!
HOPEFULLY THE FIRE'LL DESTROY THE GUNS AND AMMO WE DIDN'T MANAGE TO UNLOAD. GOD, DURANT IS GOING TO KILL ME...
BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!

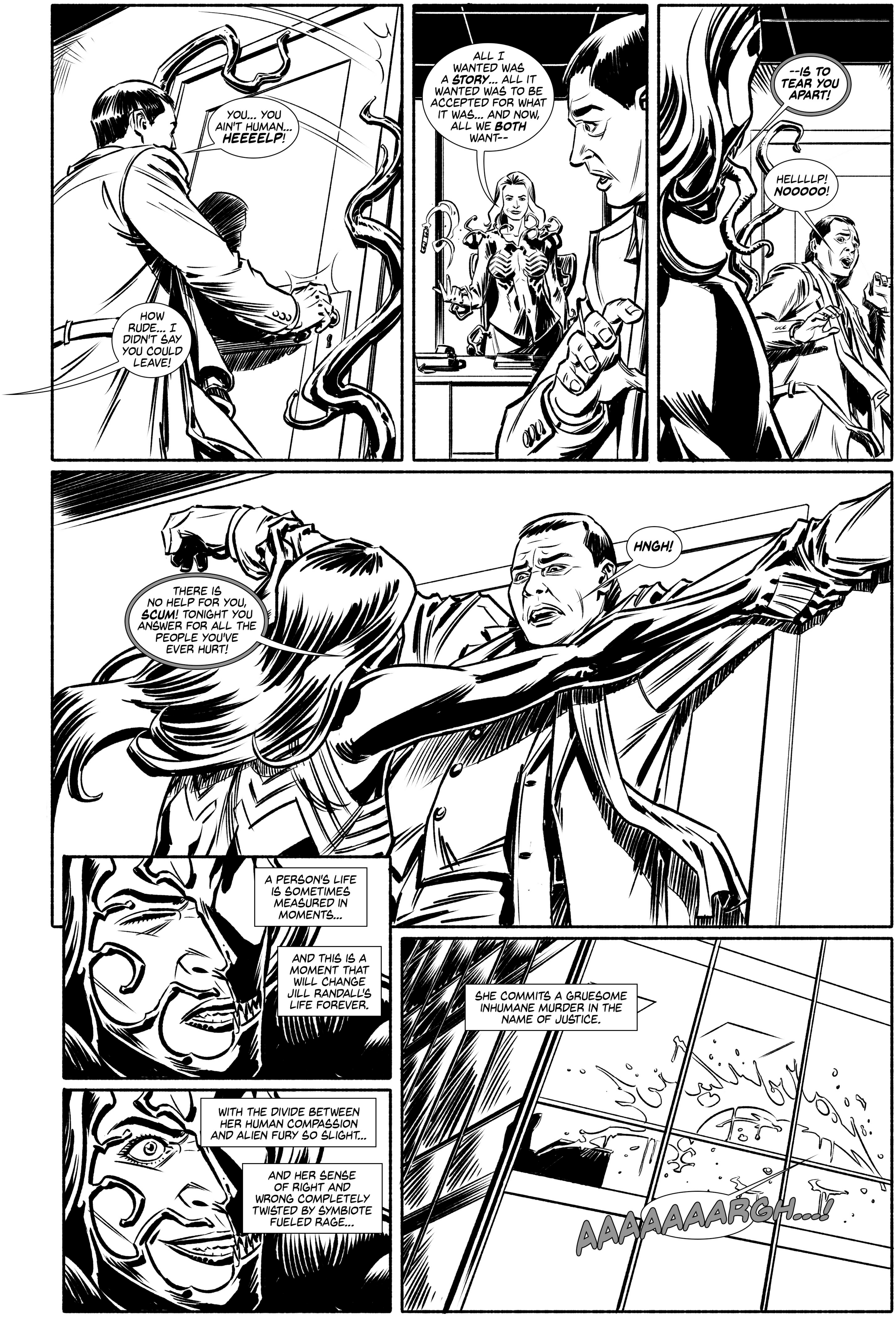

HEY, THE ALIEN SEEMS TO BE FILTERING OUT THE SMOKE FROM THE FIRES.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I DIDN'T NOTICE HOW BIG THEY HAD GOTTEN! MIGHT BE WISE TO SCRAM.
DANG, CAN'T GO BACK UP. WAIT, THE COSTUME... IT'S IN A **FRENZY**.. PETRIFIED OF THE FIRES AND NOISE AROUND US. I CAN FEEL IT DISENGAGING FROM ME! I HAVE TO TRY AND CALM IT DOWN BEFORE--
BLNG!
NO! UNNNGH!
TOSSED VIOLENTLY BY THE FLEEING ALIEN...
SMASH
...RANDALL SOON LOST CONCIOUSNESS.
MOMENTS LATER, JILL AWAKENS NAKED, ALONE, AND IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLAZING INFERNO.
UNNNH... I MUST'VE BLACKED OUT FOR A MOMENT... THE PLACE IS AN **INFERNO**! I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE... WAITASEC... THE ALIEN? IT LEFT MY BODY! BUT WHERE DID--
SKREEEEE!
OH NO... IT'S PENNED IN BY THE FIRE. IT'S HELPLESS!

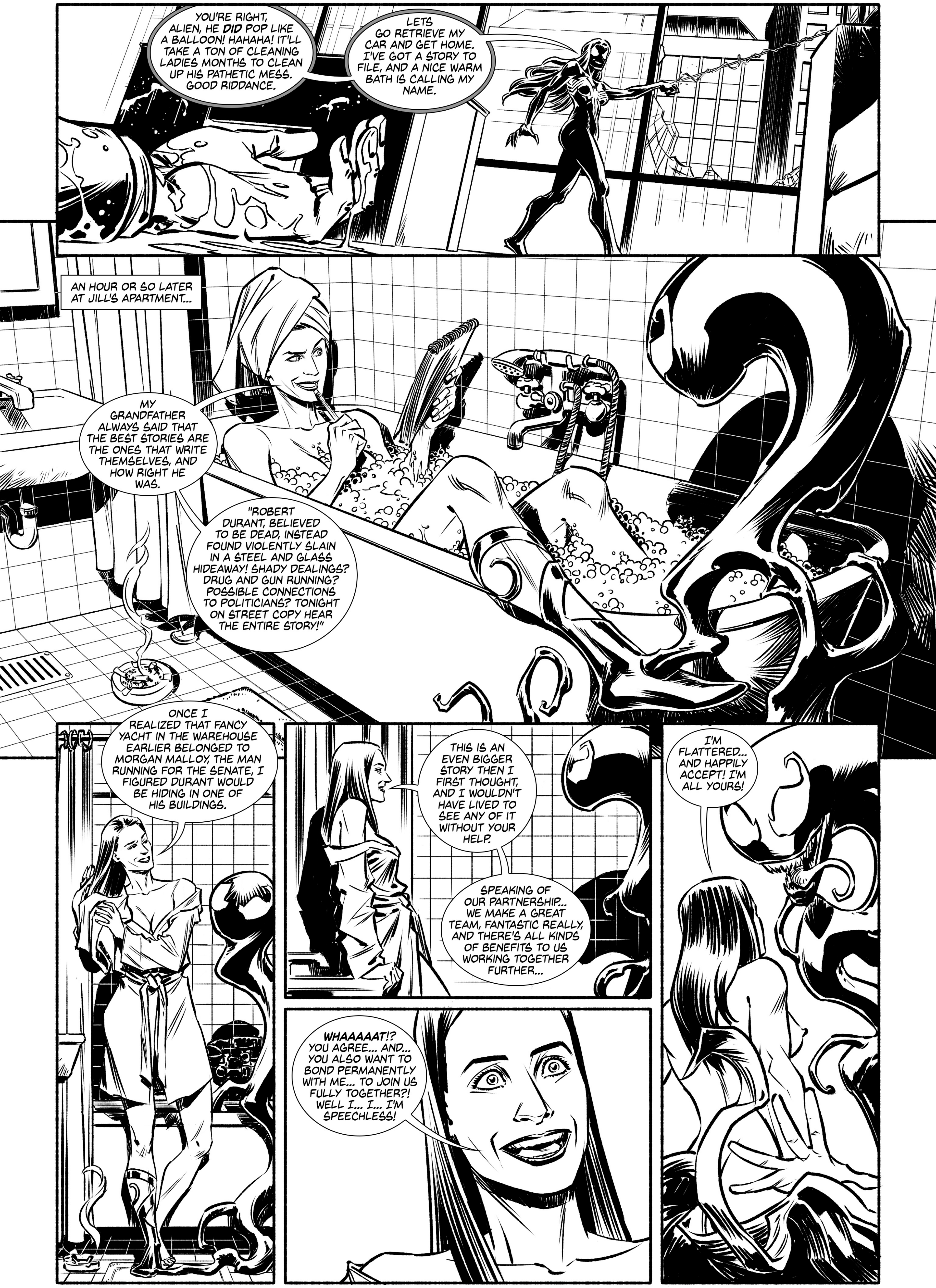

I COULD PROBABLY GET OUT THAT WINDOW, BE DONE WITH **LIVING ALIEN SUITS** AND TRY TO LAY LOW OR GET MORE EVIDENCE SOME OTHER WAY...
BUT... THAT **LIVING ALIEN SUIT**... IT **DID** SAVE MY LIFE, IT **DID** TRY TO HELP ME...
AND SEEING IT LIKE THIS, KNOWING IT REALLY **IS** A LIVING ENTITY... HOW IT FEELS, WHAT IT DOES... I WANT TO WEAR IT AGAIN, AND I KNOW I **NEED** IT'S HELP IF I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS!
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE IT WILL EVEN LISTEN TO ME IN THE STATE IT'S IN, BUT I HAVE TO TRY! I'M DEAD WITHOUT IT!
YEAAAH!
NO TURNING BACK NOW. EITHER WE GET OUT TOGETHER OR WE BOTH BURN. LETS HOPE IT HEARS ME.

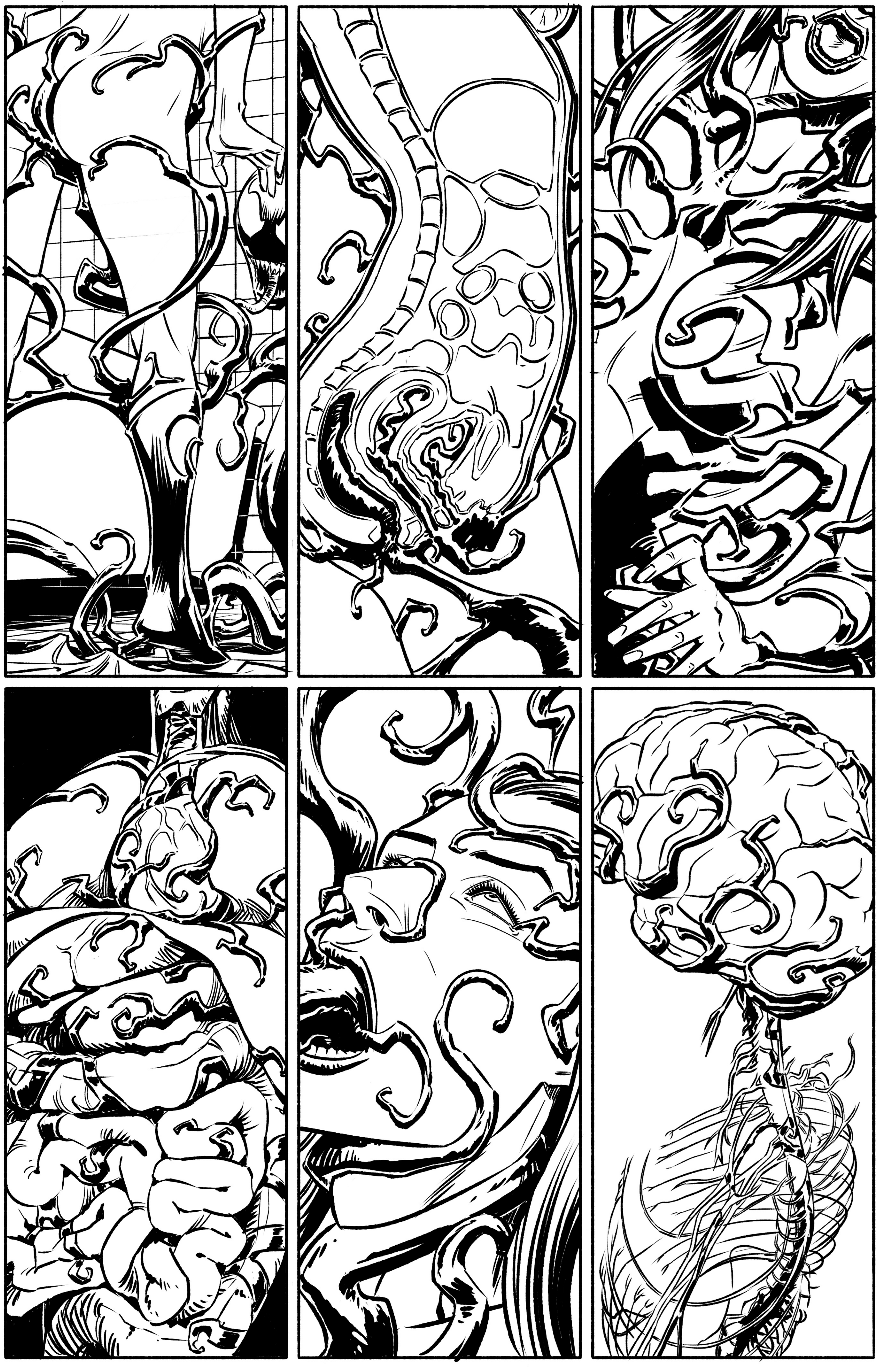

DON'T WORRY... I WON'T ABANDON YOU... BUT YOU NEED TO RETURN TO ME...
THAT'S IT... ALMOST THERE...
AHHHH... THAT'S MUCH BETTER... BUT DON'T STOP THERE...
YESSSS... JOIN WITH ME AGAIN ... WE GOT INTO THIS MESS TOGETHER...
AND WE'LL GET OUT OF IT...
TOGETHER!

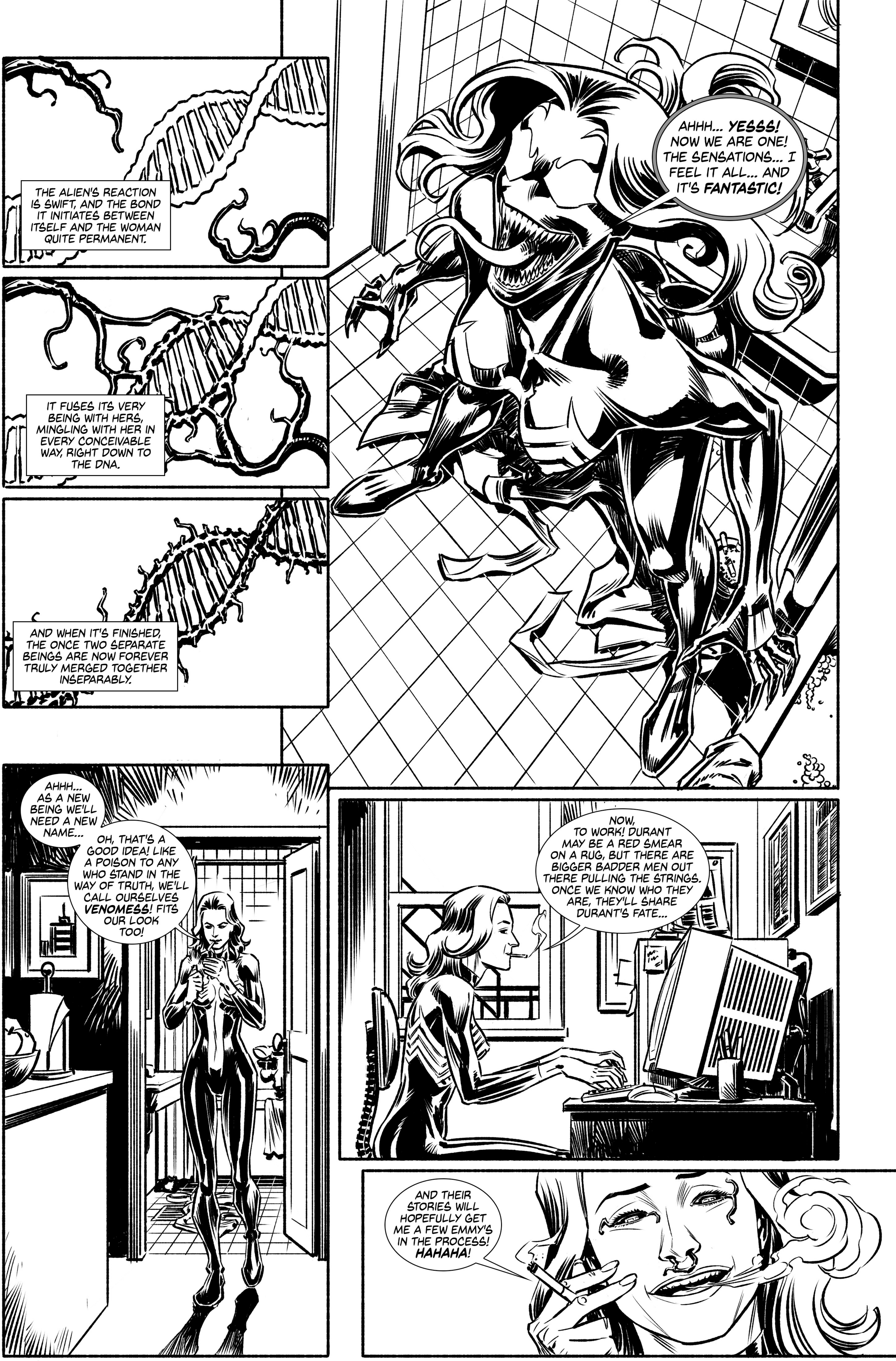

SO, WE CERTAINLY CAN'T GO THROUGH THE FLAMES, OR BACK THE WAY WE CAME IN WITH HOW HIGH THEY'VE GOTTEN.
BUT WE **ARE** ON THE WATER!
JUST AS I THOUGHT. EVEN THE COLD WATER DOESN'T BOTHER US AT ALL, AND WE CAN EVEN BREATHE UNDERWATER?! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T DO, ALIEN?
MOMENTS LATER... AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HARBOR...
OH, HAHAHA! I WASN'T REALLY ASKING. IT'S JUST YOU HAVE SO MANY AMAZING ABILITIES. SPIDER-MAN WAS CLEARLY A COLOSSAL FOOL FOR SENDING YOU AWAY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE. WHATMATTERS IS WE'RE BOTH OK, AND NOW I KNOW YOU HATE FIRE AND LOUD NOISES.
HMMM... YES ALIEN, YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR US TO DO NOW...
SO, LETS GO DO IT THEN.


LATER.
THE MAN'S NAME IS ROBERT DURANT, AND HE ISN'T A HAPPY PERSON.
HE HAS JUST LEARNED HIS ENTIRE DOCK OPERATION WENT UP IN SMOKE. MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF DOLLARS GONE, ALL BECAUSE OF SOME COSTUMED VIGILANTE.
HE FLED THE SCENE, CONFIDENT HIS MEN COULD HANDLE THINGS. HE WAS WRONG.
NOW HE HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHO WAS GOING TO PAY THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BLUNDER...
GOD DAMNED LIGHT SWITCH--
BUT HIS NIGHT WOULD TAKE YET ANOTHER UNEXPECTED TURN.
I WOULDN'T TRY TURNING ON THE LIGHTS, ROBERT. THEY'RE QUITE BROKEN. AS ARE YOUR **ELECTRONIC ALARMS** AND **CAMERAS**. NO... IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, AND I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A LITTLE **CHAT**.
WHA? YOU'RE THAT **REPORTER!** CHAT THIS YOU DUMB BITCH!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
ARE YOU QUITE DONE? BY THE WAY, I DON'T REALLY LIKE CIGARS, BUT THESE CUBANS ARE QUITE GOOD.
I... I **KNOW** I HIT YOU! YOU SHOULD BE **DEAD!**
YES, I SHOULD BE DEAD... BUT FATE HAD OTHER IDEAS.
Y'SEE, AT THAT ILLEGAL LAB YOU HAD OVER ON PORTER AVE, ONE OF THE CONTAINERS YOUR MEN STOLE FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S BUILDING HAD SOMETHING WONDERFUL INSIDE...
AN ALIEN LIFE FORM FULL OF VAST POWER! ALL IT NEEDED WAS SOMEONE WILLING TO SHARE THAT POWER WITH... AND I WAS THE LUCKY ONE CHOSEN FOR THAT HONOR.
BY THE WAY... HERE ARE YOUR BULLETS BACK.
PLOK


YOU... YOU AIN'T HUMAN... **HEEEELP!**
HOW RUDE... I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD LEAVE!
ALL I WANTED WAS A **STORY**... ALL IT WANTED WAS TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHAT IT WAS... AND NOW, ALL WE **BOTH** WANT--
--IS TO TEAR YOU APART!
HELLLLP! **NOOOOO!**
THERE IS NO HELP FOR YOU, **SCUM!** TONIGHT YOU ANSWER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE EVER HURT!
HNGH!
A PERSON'S LIFE IS SOMETIMES MEASURED IN MOMENTS...
AND THIS IS A MOMENT THAT WILL CHANGE JILL RANDALL'S LIFE FOREVER.
WITH THE DIVIDE BETWEEN HER HUMAN COMPASSION AND ALIEN FURY SO SLIGHT...
AND HER SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG COMPLETELY TWISTED BY SYMBIOTE FUELED RAGE...
SHE COMMITS A GRUESOME INHUMANE MURDER IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE.
AAAAAAARGH...!!


YOU'RE RIGHT, ALIEN, HE *DID* POP LIKE A BALLOON! HAHAHA! IT'LL TAKE A TON OF CLEANING LADIES MONTHS TO CLEAN UP HIS PATHETIC MESS. GOOD RIDDANCE.
LETS GO RETRIEVE MY CAR AND GET HOME. I'VE GOT A STORY TO FILE, AND A NICE WARM BATH IS CALLING MY NAME.
AN HOUR OR SO LATER AT JILL'S APARTMENT...
MY GRANDFATHER ALWAYS SAID THAT THE BEST STORIES ARE THE ONES THAT WRITE THEMSELVES, AND HOW RIGHT HE WAS.
"ROBERT DURANT, BELIEVED TO BE DEAD, INSTEAD FOUND VIOLENTLY SLAIN IN A STEEL AND GLASS HIDEAWAY! SHADY DEALINGS? DRUG AND GUN RUNNING? POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS TO POLITICIANS? TONIGHT ON STREET COPY HEAR THE ENTIRE STORY!"
ONCE I REALIZED THAT FANCY YACHT IN THE WAREHOUSE EARLIER BELONGED TO MORGAN MALLOY, THE MAN RUNNING FOR THE SENATE, I FIGURED DURANT WOULD BE HIDING IN ONE OF HIS BUILDINGS.
THIS IS AN EVEN BIGGER STORY THEN I FIRST THOUGHT, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE LIVED TO SEE ANY OF IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
SPEAKING OF OUR PARTNERSHIP... WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM, FANTASTIC REALLY, AND THERE'S ALL KINDS OF BENEFITS TO US WORKING TOGETHER FURTHER...
I'M FLATTERED... AND HAPPILY ACCEPT! I'M ALL YOURS!
WHAAAAAT!? YOU AGREE... AND... YOU ALSO WANT TO BOND PERMANENTLY WITH ME... TO JOIN US FULLY TOGETHER?! WELL I... I... I'M SPEECHLESS!




THE ALIEN'S REACTION IS SWIFT, AND THE BOND IT INITIATES BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE WOMAN QUITE PERMANENT.
AHHH... YESSS! NOW WE ARE ONE! THE SENSATIONS... I FEEL IT ALL... AND IT'S FANTASTIC!
IT FUSES ITS VERY BEING WITH HERS, MINGLING WITH HER IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY, RIGHT DOWN TO THE DNA.
AND WHEN IT'S FINISHED, THE ONCE TWO SEPARATE BEINGS ARE NOW FOREVER TRULY MERGED TOGETHER INSEPARABLY.
AHHH... AS A NEW BEING WE'LL NEED A NEW NAME...
OH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! LIKE A POISON TO ANY WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF TRUTH, WE'LL CALL OURSELVES VENOMESS! FITS OUR LOOK TOO!
NOW, TO WORK! DURANT MAY BE A RED SMEAR ON A RUG, BUT THERE ARE BIGGER BADDER MEN OUT THERE PULLING THE STRINGS. ONCE WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE, THEY'LL SHARE DURANT'S FATE...
AND THEIR STORIES WILL HOPEFULLY GET ME A FEW EMMY'S IN THE PROCESS! HAHAHA!

DAWN ARRIVES, AND WITH IT THE STORIED CITY OF CHICAGO BEGINS TO AWAKEN FROM ITS SLUMBER.
FOR MANY, A WARM CUP OF COFFEE IS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS TO GET THEIR DAY GOING...
... BUT FOR THE TELEVISION REPORTER **JILL RANDALL**, AND HER ALIEN-FUELED ALTER-EGO THE VIGILANTE **VENOMESS**... THAT MORNING ROUTINE NOW FALLS TO INTENSE WORKOUTS.
499! ⋛HMMMPH!⋚ 500! ⋛HMMMPH!⋚
THESE MORNING WORKOUTS ARE SO INVIGORATING!
PRIOR TO OUR JOINING I USED TO ENJOY YOGA AND THE OCCASIONAL JAZZERCISE, BUT WITH YOU AUGMENTING MY METABOLISM NOW, IT'S HARD TO NOT LOVE SEEING THE RESULTS OF OUR HARD WORK!
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN BETTER SHAPE.
PLUS, SINCE YOU EXPLAINED THAT YOU GEOMETRICALLY ENHANCE MY STRENGTH, THE STRONGER I GET THE STRONGER OUR COMBINED BEING BECOMES!
LOOKING GOOD DOESN'T HURT MY REPORTING CAREER EITHER, NATURALLY.
YES ALIEN, THAT DINNER WE WERE INVITED TO LATER IS GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTING. A FEW OF THE PARTY GOERS HAVE TIES TO BOTH **POLITICIANS** AND THE **MOB**.
THE MAN HOSTING IT IS A PRIME TARGET, AND LIKELY LOADED WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION... THE SORT WE COULD USE TO TIE A CERTAIN **SENATOR** TO IT ALL...
NOW... TO COME UP WITH A **KILLER** DRESS DESIGN...

DAY TURNS TO NIGHT, AND SO LATER, AT A FANCY SHINDIG AT AN EVEN FANCIER HOUSE IN THE FANCIEST OF NEIGHBORHOODS...
UGH, THE THINGS I WILL DO FOR A STORY. JUST BEING IN THE SAME ROOM AS ALL THESE PRETENTIOUS AND PHONY SO-AND-SO'S MAKES ME WANT TO TEAR THE TOPS OF THEIR HEADS OFF LIKE TIN CANS.
BUT WE'VE GOT A MISSION ALIEN, SO LETS PLAY NICE TILL WE FIND OUT WHO'S WHO... SMILE JILL... SMILE!
AHH, ***MS. RANDALL***! YOU LOOK POSITIVELY DIVINE! THANK YOU FOR GRACING US WITH YOUR PRESENCE THIS FINE EVENING.
THANK YOU, ***MR. PALMANO***. THIS LOOKS LIKE QUITE A PARTY YOU'VE GOT HERE.
YES, WELL, I DO TRY. I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU CAME BY ***YOURSELF***...
I'M SO. BUSY, IT'S HARD TO MEET PEOPLE. IT'S JUST LIL OL' ME TONIGHT.
WELL, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS RELAX. TOO MUCH WORK IS NEVER A GOOD THING. WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY OFFICE. I KEEP THE 150 YEAR OLD SCOTCH IN THERE. YOU CAN FINISH ASKING ME THOSE ***QUESTIONS*** YOU STARTED WITH THE OTHER DAY OVER THE PHONE.
OH, THAT'D BE SWELL. BUT WON'T YOUR ***WIFE*** GET A LITTLE PEEVED WITH JUST YOU AND ME IN A ROOM BY OUR LONESOME?
SHE'S MY FIFTH WIFE... AND SHE KNOWS TO MIND HER OWN BUSINESS. COME, THIS WAY.
I SEE. WELL... HOW CAN I SAY NO TO SUCH A GRACIOUS OFFER? LEAD ON, I'M SURE THIS WILL BE ENLIGHTENING.
UGH THIS GUY IS A SLIMEBALL. I WANT TO STRANGLE HIM WITH HIS OWN SMALL INTESTINE TILL HE DIES HORRIBLY. LET'S HOPE THIS GETS US SOME INFORMATION.
I MUST SAY MS. RANDALL, I'M VERY GLAD YOU CAME. SEEING YOU WALK THROUGH MY DOOR MADE MY NIGHT. PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
THANK YOU FOR SAYING THAT, MR. PALMANO.
PLEASE, IN MY OWN HOME, MY FRIENDS CALL ME ***LARRY***.

OH?AND WHAT DO YOUR VERY **CLOSE** FRIENDS CALL YOU?
WELL MY DEAR THAT ALL DEPENDS ON **HOW** CLOSE THAT PARTICULAR FRIEND IS...
HOW ABOUT YOUR **SENATOR** FRIEND? WHAT DOES HE CALL YOU?
HMMPH. YOU'RE NO FUN. AS FOR YOUR QUESTION... I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I DON'T KNOW THE SENATOR THAT WELL.
YOU PLAY GOLF WITH HIM EVERY WEEK AND HAVE BEEN SEEN AT SEVERAL RESTAURANTS LATE AT NIGHT WITH HIM DISCUSSING ALL MANNER OF THINGS... SURELY YOU KNOW HIM FAIRLY WELL...?
COME. I THINK WE SHOULD BOTH REJOIN THE PARTY PROPER, BEFORE YOU GET ME ANGRY WITH YOUR LINE OF QUESTIONING.
STAY AND ENJOY MY HOSPITALITY THE REST OF THIS EVENING, MS. RANDALL. BUT DON'T BOTHER THE OTHER GUESTS WITH QUESTIONS OR YOU'LL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.
THANK YOU LARRY. YOU'RE TOO KIND.
DROPPING THAT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SENATOR SEEMS TO HAVE BAITED OL' LARRY INTO SENDING ONE OF HIS GOONS AFTER US. LETS SEE WHAT HIS BOSS WANTS HIM TO DO, SHALL WE?
LIKE A FLY TO A SPIDER, HOW APPROPRIATE.

OK LADY, DON'T MAKE A SOUND. COME ALONG QUIETLY AND YOU'LL LIVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS.
UGH. A GUN TO MY BACK AND PROMISES OF LETTING ME LIVE? HOW *CLICHE*.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY THAT I WOULD DO *ANYTHING* IF YOU LET ME WALK OUT OF HERE, RIGHT?
UHHH...
YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER. THAT WANTON LOOK IN YOUR EYES TELLS *US* ALL *WE* NEEDED TO KNOW.
WHAT THE F**K!?
SHHH. IT'S ALRIGHT. WE WILL MAKE THIS NICE AND QUICK.
CHLK! HNF! GHHH!
KRAKT!
CRUNCH!
SNAP!
YES ALIEN I'M SURE HE DIED *HAPPY*, HAHAHA! SADLY WE CANNOT LEAVE THIS LITTER HERE. HE WILL HAVE TO BE PROPERLY DISPOSED IN THE RIVER.
WHEN HE DOESN'T REPORT BACK AND I POP UP ON TV TOMORROW NIGHT I'M SURE IT'LL RUFFLE SOME FEATHERS HIGHER UP THE ORGANIZATIONS FOOD CHAIN. AND WHEN IT DOES, JUSTICE IS A STEP CLOSER!

WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH JILL'S HAIR, DEBBY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE OTHER PART OF HER SKIRT SHE OBVIOUSLY LOST.
I THINK SHE'LL BE TOO BUSY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO CLOSE THAT GAP IN YOUR TEETH, DEENA.
NOW NOW LADIES... LET'S FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORANT...
LIKE... IS MY MAKEUP AND ***HAIR*** PERFECT OR NOT...?!
OK PLACES PEOPLE... GOING LIVE WITH THE PROMPTER IN ... 5, 4, 3...
GOOD EVENING AMERICA, I'M ***STAN MATHERS***.
AND I'M ***DEENA REYWAS***. WELCOME TO ***ZBC*** WEEKLY NEWS!
TONIGHT'S TOP STORY - AMERICA'S OBESITY, IS IT ***REALLY*** THE FATTY FOOD THAT'S TURNING PEOPLE INTO HONKING WALRUS CREATURES? OR IS THERE A MORE MYSTICAL EXPLANATION TO THE CRISIS? I HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT!
BUT FIRST, WE WILL TURN IT OVER TO CHANNEL 12'S OWN ***JILL RANDALL*** WITH A REPORT ON ORGANIZED CRIME. JILL?
THANKS STAN.
IT'S NO SECRET THAT ORGANIZED CRIME IS HERE IN OUR FAIR CITY OF CHICAGO. ALL THOSE SIRENS YOU HEAR AT NIGHT SCREAMING PAST - THE INCREASED FOOT PATROLS: THEY AREN'T A MIRAGE. AND, THEY AREN'T ENOUGH TO STEM THE TIDE. NO, WE ARE FACING TRUE AND REAL CHALLENGES HERE IN THE WINDY CITY, AND, AS MUCH AS I HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, I'VE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE POWERFUL CORRUPTION BEHIND IT ALL MAY BE TIED TO SOME OF OUR CIVIC AND ***VOTED*** LEADERS.

I KNOW THAT STATEMENT MAY COME OFF AS SOMEWHAT OF A BLOCKBUSTER ... AND I ASSURE YOU DEAR VIEWERS I DON'T TAKE WHAT I'M SAYING HERE LIGHTLY ... BUT IT'S MY DUTY AS A MEMBER OF THE ESTEEMED FOURTH ESTATE ... AND AS A LOYAL CHICAGOAN ... TO REPORT THE FACTS.
JUST **WHO** DO I HAVE GROWING EVIDENCE ON BEING ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH TREACHERY? JUST **WHO** WOULD BETRAY THE ***TRUST*** THIS GREAT STATE HAD PLACED INTO THEM, ABUSING THEIR POWER FOR PERSONAL GAINS?
ZONY
WELL... YOU'LL HAVE TO TUNE INTO NEXT WEEK'S BROADCAST FOR A FEW OF THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS. A CLIFFHANGER TO BE CERTAIN, BUT REST ASSURED, IT'LL BE WORTH THE WAIT! BACK TO YOU, STAN.
ZONY
WELL PALMANO... WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
ABOUT WHAT? THAT LITTLE CHICKY KNOWS NOTHING AND...
ENOUGH. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO INVITE HER TO YOUR PLACE, SHUT HER UP OR KILL HER... AND YOU BLEW IT. THAT'S WHY I'VE GONE AHEAD AND CONSULTED WITH A PROFESSIONAL. ***MR. LINCOLN***?
IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, SENATOR. THAT NOSY LITTLE REPORTER NEEDS TO BE SILENCED. AND YOU CAN BET ***TOMBSTONE*** IS THE MAN TO DO JUST THAT!

NIGHT. THE TIME OF A TYPICAL DAY WHEN MOST NORMAL AVERAGE PEOPLE GO INDOORS, REST THEIR BONES AND GEAR UP TO TACKLE THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH VIM AND VIGOR.
IT'S ALSO THE TIME WHEN THE UNDESIRABLES, THE MALCONTENTS AND THE MISCREANTS OF THE WORLD COME OUT TO PLAY.
MANY DO SO HOPING THAT THE DARK MASK OF THE NIGHT CAN SHIELD THEM FROM THE PEERING AND PRYING EYES OF THE LAW AS THEY GO ABOUT THEIR MISDEEDS.
NO MATTER THEIR CAUSE OR RANK, THEY ALL ANSWER TO SOMEONE, AND IT'S BECOME ***VENOMESS'*** OBSESSION TO CONNECT THOSE DOTS ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP AND TO CUT... OR BITE... THE HEAD OF THE SNAKE OFF.
YES ALIEN, EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN THE PAST FEW WEEKS SEEMS TO SUGGEST THIS BRIDGE IS A WAYPOINT FOR GETTING DRUGS AND GUNS IN AND OUT OF THE CITY.
FERDINALLI'S SHIPMENT WE DESTROYED PRIOR TO OUR BONDING WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY BOUND FOR HERE, SO WE SHOULD FINISH WHAT WE STARTED!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL THAT'S THE ONLY WAY INSIDE. DEALING WITH THOSE GUARDS WOULD BE EASY... ***AND ENJOYABLE***... BUT...
... WE DON'T WANT TO RAISE TOO MUCH OF A FUSS UNTIL WE SEE WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST! SO GLAD YOU EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD THIS ***STEALTH*** ABILITY AT OUR DISPOSAL! YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME!
PERFECT! NOW, LETS GO SEE WHAT WE SHALL SEE, HMM?

NOT MUCH TO SEE HERE IN THESE HALLWAYS. LET'S SEE WHERE THIS LITTLE SHORTCUT TAKES US.
I HADN'T COUNTED ON THIS PLACE BEING AS MASSIVE AS IT APPEARS TO BE.
WE'LL DO A BIT MORE RECONNAISSANCE AND THEN LEAVE AND REASSESS HOW TO TACKLE THE OPERATION.
HAH! I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THAT VOICE!
ALRIGHT DOLLFACE, I'VE FINISHED COUNTING THE TILLS. LETS GO PAINT THE TOWN RED.
WE GONNA GO TO THAT DISCO DOWN ON HAMILTON, HONEY--
YOU STUPID ***B***CH!*** WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT TOUCHING ANY MONEY WHILE YOU'RE IN HERE!?
BUT HONEYWAFFLES I WASN'T GOING TO--
I KEEP YOU AROUND FOR ***ONE*** REASON, AND DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT!
UGH!
WHY THAT SCUMMY PIECE OF GARBAGE!

MATTER OF FACT I THINK I SHOULD JOG YOUR MEMORY A BIT! MAKE SURE YOU **NEVER** FORGET YOUR PLACE AGAIN!
PLEASE... I'M SORRY I WON'T DO IT AGAIN... HONEST...!
ARGH!
OOF!
GRRR!
ENOUGH! SNARL
IF YOU ENJOY HITTING A WOMAN, TRY ME ON FOR SIZE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU'RE THAT VENOMESS CHICK, THE ONE WHO TOOK DOWN FERDINALI!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND I'M ABOUT TO BREAK BOTH YOUR LECHEROUS ARMS AND TEAR YOUR MISERABLE HEAD OFF YOUR BODY! **SNARL**
YOU... YOU!... NO! AHH... HELP... **HELP**!
UHH...
MY OTHER SAYS YOU WILL SURVIVE YOUR INJURIES. I SUGGEST YOU USE THIS AS A WAKEUP CALL AND STOP CONSORTING WITH THIS MORON.
YEAH, YEAH, SCARY LADY. NICE CLOTHES AND A $500 A WEEK ALLOWANCE ISN'T WORTH DEALING WITH HIS TINY DICK IF HE'S GOING TO BE DOING THIS. GO GET'EM.
HAHA! DID YOU HEAR THAT LITTLE MAN? SOUNDS LIKE YOUR MONEY DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR YOUR SHORTCOMINGS AFTERALL! AND NOW... LETS BREAK THOSE ARMS PROPERLY!
HELP HELP **HELP**! TOMBSTONE...! **TOMBSTONE**!
15

WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THAT YELLING ABOUT?!
WELL, AREN'T YOU TALL AND GRUESOME!
AHH... HELP... HELP!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING GRUESOME LADY?!
OOOF!
UGH! THIS GUY HITS LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN!
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT BY THAT IDIOT YELLING A MINUTE AGO, THE NAME'S TOMBSTONE!
OH? AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?

IMPRESSED OR NOT, I WAS HIRED TO DEAL WITH **INTERLOPERS** LIKE YOU!
WELL YOU AREN'T DOING A GREAT JOB, ARE YOU?
UHHHH!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
ARRRGH!
YOU LIKE GIVING, HOW DO YOU LIKE RECEIVING!
EWWW! WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH YOUR SKIN YOU MANIAC?! THAT WHITE COMPLEXION OF YOURS ISN'T NATURAL, THAT'S FOR SURE!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M ONE OF A KIND, BABY! AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THEN A RAKE IN THE FACE TO PUT ME DOWN!

HOW ABOUT THIS THEN?
WHAT THE HECK?!
MMM MMFL GHF!
NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU?
THERE SHE IS! KILL HER KILL HER!
BUT WE MAY HIT TOMBSTONE!
HE CAN PROBABLY TAKE IT! BLOW HER AWAY!
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
NO HONOR AMONGST THIEVES, HMM? THAT'S OK...
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
...WE *DO* STILL HAVE TO BREAK SOME ARMS AND TEAR A HEAD OFF A CERTAIN PERSON!
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
HEY!... WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE AREN'T DONE YET!
I CAN HEAR MORE MEN COMING, THIS WHOLE PLACE IS ABOUT TO COME DOWN ON ME! I HAD BETTER GET WHILE THE GETTING IS GOOD!

YES ALIEN, I HATE TURNING TAIL AND RUNNING LIKE THIS TOO! BUT DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR AS THEY SAY!
UH... STO... STO...
WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY STOP? WHAT A GREAT IDEA! CATCH YOU GOONS!
EXCUSE ME KIND SIRS, BUT YOU ARE BLOCKING MY EXIT!
OOOF!
WERE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE, PRINCESS?!
KRASH!
ARRRGH!
YOU THINK RAKING MY EYES AND PUNCHING ME IN THE GUT WILL GET THE JOB DONE?! NOT BY A LONGSHOT!
ALIEN IS CUSHIONING MOST OF THESE BLOWS, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH MORE WE CAN TAKE! I NEED TO...